

# Extreme imaging using cell phones

ICCV Extreme Imaging Workshop  
December 17, 2015  
(revised September 15, 2016)

---



Marc Levoy  
Principal Engineer  
Google Research



Professor, Emeritus  
Computer Science Department  
Stanford University

# Really? Extreme imaging using cell phones?

---

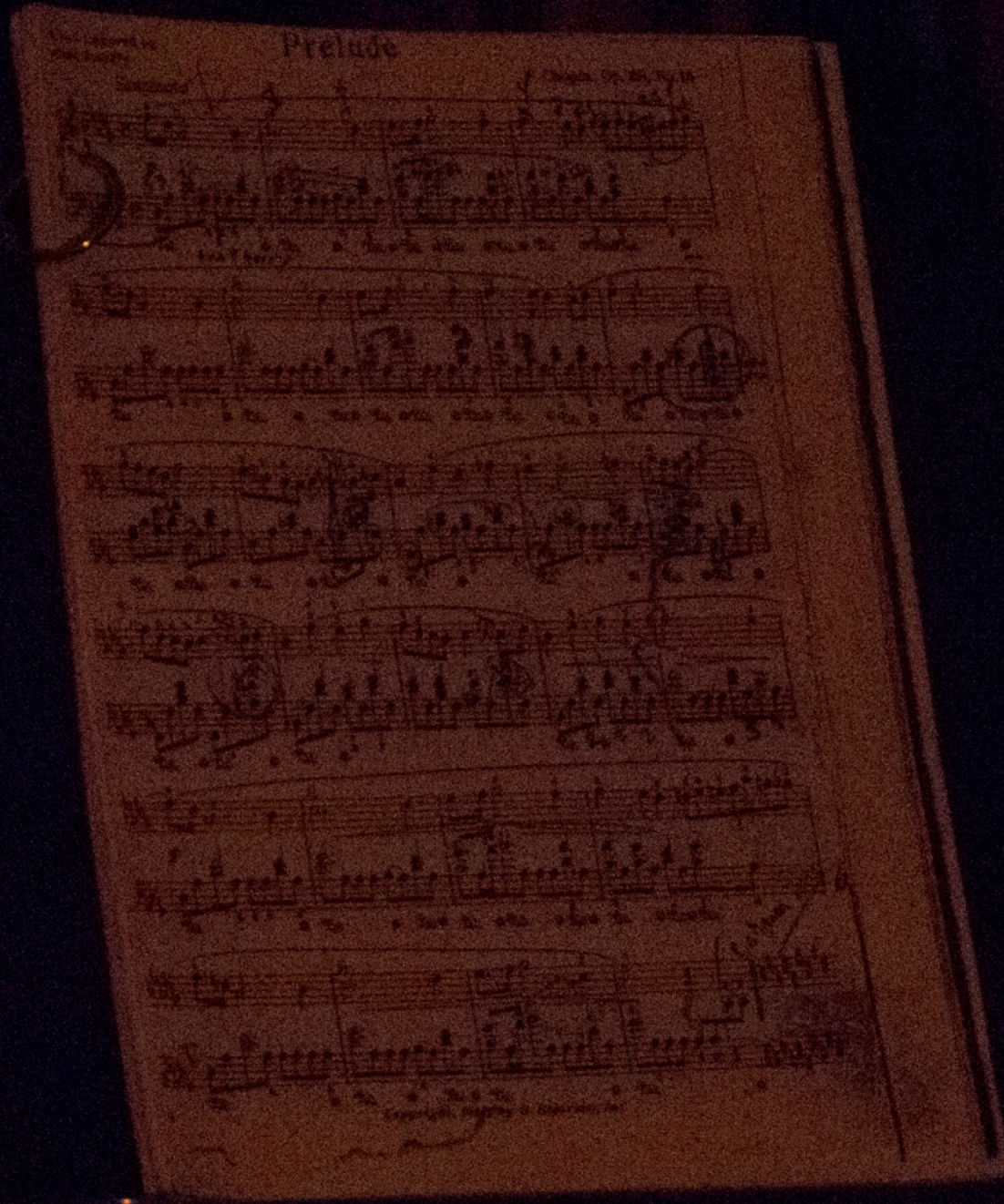
- ◆ small aperture
  - limits the number of photons it can gather
  - noisy images in low light
- ◆ small sensor
  - limits the number of electrons each pixel can store
  - poor dynamic range
- ◆ small lens module
  - limits the length of its optical path
  - no telephoto, no zoom



Jesse Levinson Canon 10D, 28mm f/4, 3 min, ISO 100, 4 image pano



(video available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/S7lbnMd56Ys>, but the app is not currently available to the public)



Canon 60D, f/5.6, ISO 12800, 1/8 second

# Prélude

F. Chopin. Op. 28,

Handwritten musical score for Chopin's Prélude, Op. 28, No. 15. The score is written on aged paper with two systems of staves. The top system includes a treble clef, a 'piano' (p.) dynamic marking, and a 'crescendo' (cresc.) marking. The bottom system includes a bass clef and a 'piano' (p.) dynamic marking. The music features a repeating eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex melodic line in the left hand. Handwritten annotations include 'cresc. hurry' in the first measure of the bottom system and various fingering numbers (1-5) and slurs. The paper shows signs of age, including some staining and a large handwritten scribble in the top left corner.

Sony a7II, Leica 35mm prime lens, f/2, ISO 6400, 1/8 second

# Prélude

F. Chopin. Op. 28

Handwritten musical score for Chopin's Prélude, Op. 28, No. 24. The score is written on two systems of staves. The top system includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 3/4 time signature. The music features a series of chords and melodic lines. The bottom system continues the piece with similar notation. Handwritten annotations include "31" above the first measure of the top system, "4 4 5" below the first measure of the bottom system, and "can't hurry" written across the first two measures of the bottom system. The score is overlaid with a digital interface for accessibility.



SeeInTheDark

# Example computational photography app: HDR+ mode on Nexus phones

---



Google Research Blog

The latest news from Research at Google

## HDR+: Low Light and High Dynamic Range photography in the Google Camera App

Posted: Monday, October 27, 2014



Posted by Marc Levoy, Google[x] Software Engineering Manager and [Professor Emeritus, Stanford University](#)

As anybody who has tried to use a smartphone to photograph a dimly lit scene knows, the resulting pictures are often blurry or full of random variations in brightness from pixel to pixel, known as [image noise](#). Equally frustrating are smartphone photographs of scenes where there is a large range of brightness levels, such as a family photo backlit by a bright sky. In [high dynamic range](#) (HDR) situations like this, photographs will either come out with an overexposed sky (turning it white) or an underexposed family (turning them into silhouettes).

HDR+ is a feature in the [Google Camera app](#) for Nexus 5 and Nexus 6 that uses computational photography to help you take better pictures in these common situations. When you press the shutter button, HDR+ actually captures a rapid burst of pictures, then quickly combines them into one. This improves results in both low-light and high dynamic range situations. Below we delve into each case and describe how HDR+ works to produce a better



# Typical approach to HDR

---

- ◆ exposure bracketing
  - capture images with varying exposure
  - combine highlights from short exposure with shadows from long exposure
  
- ◆ hard to robustly handle camera shake or object motion
  - noise level differs between exposures
  - saturated areas cannot be aligned at all

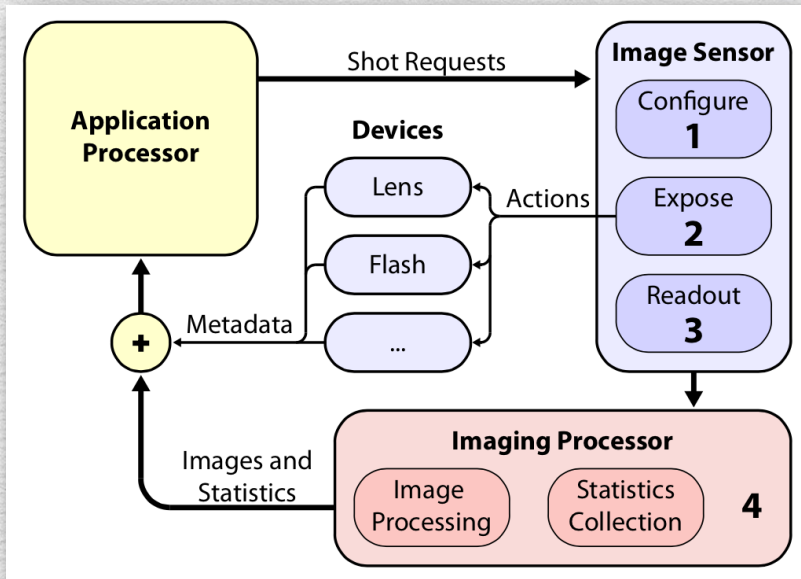
# HDR in the Google camera app

[to be published in Proc. SIGGRAPH Asia 2016]

---

- ◆ capture a burst of under-exposed images
  - same exposure on all images in burst
  - avoids blowing out highlights

# Stanford Frankencamera architecture and FCam API [Adams SIGGRAPH 2010]



```
Sensor sensor;  
Flash flash;  
vector<Shot> burst(2);
```

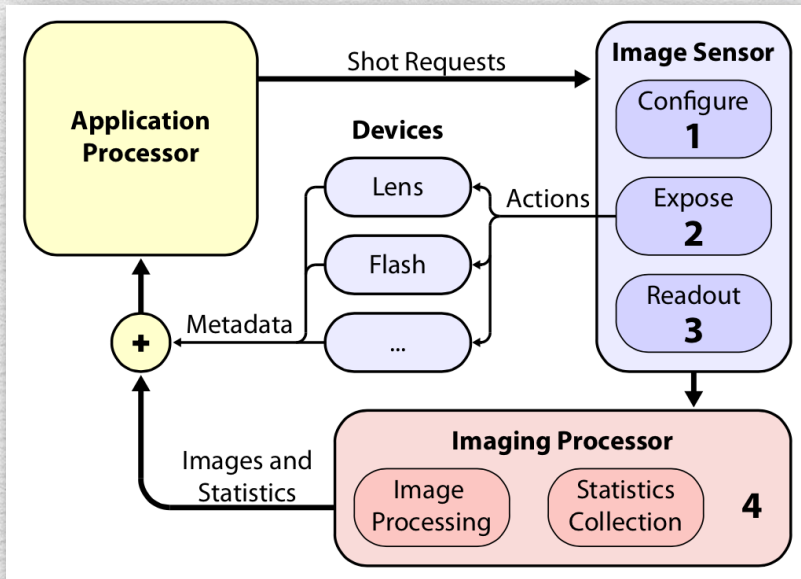
```
burst[0].exposure = 1/200.;  
burst[1].exposure = 1/30.;
```

```
Flash::FireAction fire(&flash);  
fire.time = burst[0].exposure/2;  
burst[0].actions.insert(fire);
```

```
sensor.stream(burst);
```

```
while (1) {  
    Frame flashFrame =  
        sensor.getFrame();  
    Frame noflashFrame =  
        sensor.getFrame();  
}
```

# Android Camera HAL 3 architecture and Camera2 API (Eddy Talvala and others)



```
Sensor sensor;  
Flash flash;  
vector<Shot> burst(2);
```

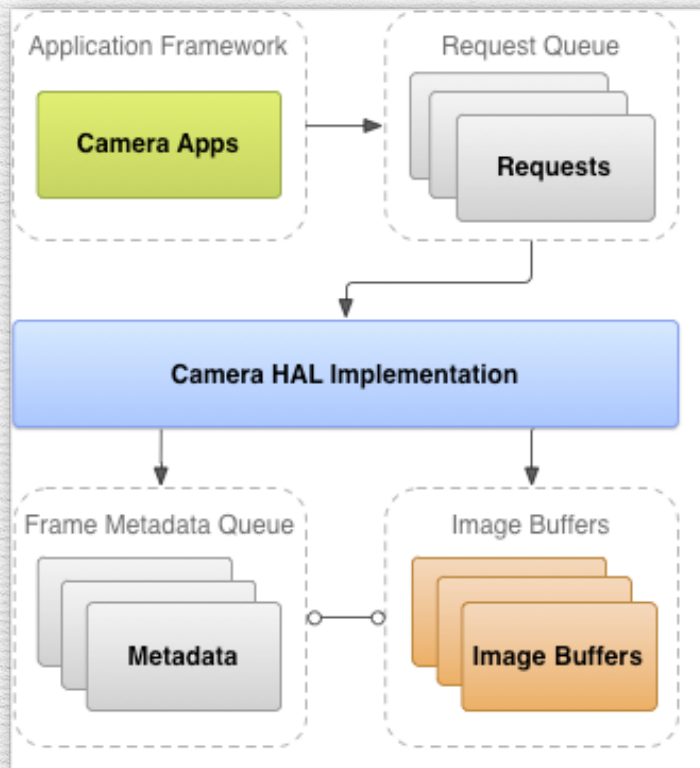
```
burst[0].exposure = 1/200.;  
burst[1].exposure = 1/30.;
```

```
Flash::FireAction fire(&flash);  
fire.time = burst[0].exposure/2;  
burst[0].actions.insert(fire);
```

```
sensor.stream(burst);
```

```
while (1) {  
    Frame flashFrame =  
        sensor.getFrame();  
    Frame noflashFrame =  
        sensor.getFrame();  
}
```

# Android Camera HAL 3 architecture and Camera2 API (Eddy Talvala and others)



```
Sensor sensor;  
Flash flash;  
vector<Shot> burst(2);
```

```
burst[0].exposure = 1/200.;  
burst[1].exposure = 1/30.;
```

```
Flash::FireAction fire(&flash);  
fire.time = burst[0].exposure/2;  
burst[0].actions.insert(fire);
```

```
sensor.stream(burst);
```

```
while (1) {  
    Frame flashFrame =  
        sensor.getFrame();  
    Frame noflashFrame =  
        sensor.getFrame();  
}
```

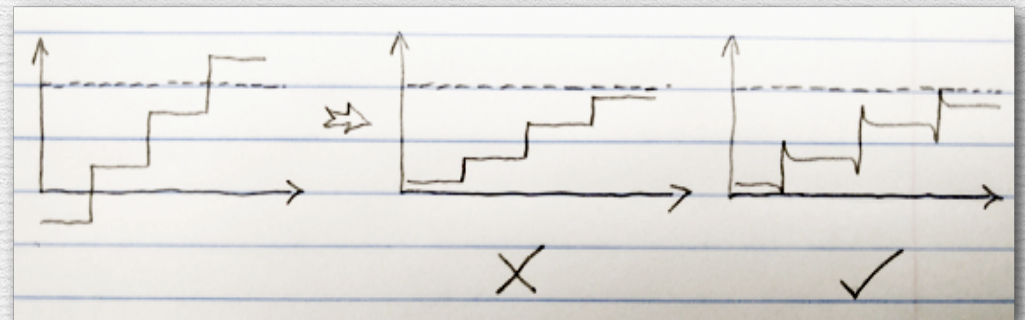


# HDR in the Google camera app

[to be published in Proc. SIGGRAPH Asia 2016]

---

- ◆ capture a burst of under-exposed images
  - same exposure on all images in burst
  - avoids blowing out highlights
- ◆ align and merge
  - all images look similar, so alignment is more robust
  - $\text{SNR} \propto \sqrt{N}$  where  $N$  = number of frames in burst
  - reduces noise in shadows



- ◆ tonemap
  - boost shadows
  - squeeze 14-bit merged image into 8-bit for display
  - preserve local contrast at the expense of global contrast

# HDR in the Google camera app

[to be published in Proc. SIGGRAPH Asia 2016]

---

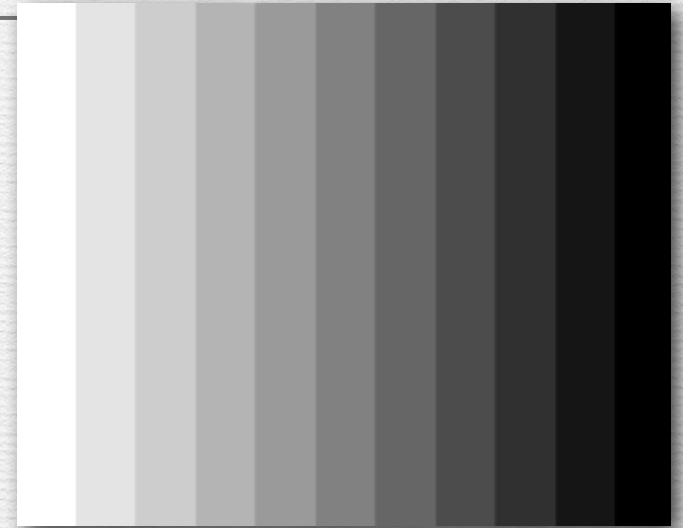
- ◆ capture a burst of under-exposed images
  - same exposure on all images in burst
  - avoids blowing out highlights
- ◆ align and merge
  - all images look similar, so alignment is more robust
  - reduces noise in shadows
- ◆ tonemap
  - boost shadows
  - enhance local contrast to avoid washed-out look



# HDR in the Google camera app

[to be published in Proc. SIGGRAPH Asia 2016]

the Mach band illusion:  
each wedge should appear  
brighter on its right side

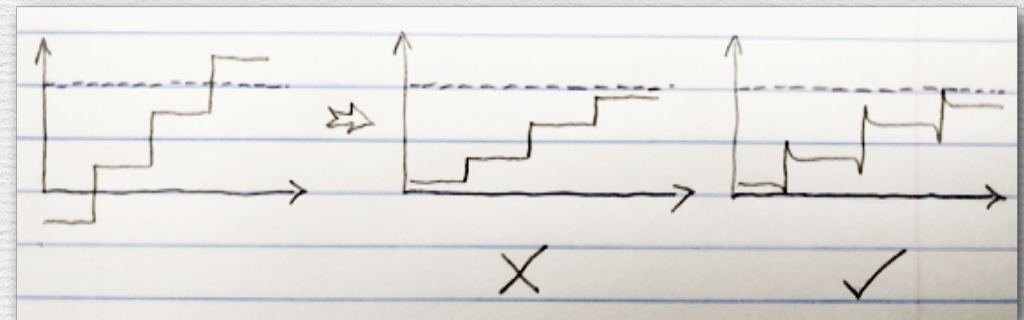


## ◆ align and merge

- all images look similar, so alignment is more robust
- $\text{SNR} \propto \sqrt{N}$  where  $N$  = number of frames in burst
- reduces noise in shadows

## ◆ tonemap

- boost shadows
- squeeze 14-bit merged image into 8-bit for display
- preserve local contrast at the expense of global contrast



# HDR in the Google camera app

[to be published in Proc. SIGGRAPH Asia 2016]

the Mach band illusion:  
each wedge should appear  
brighter on its right side

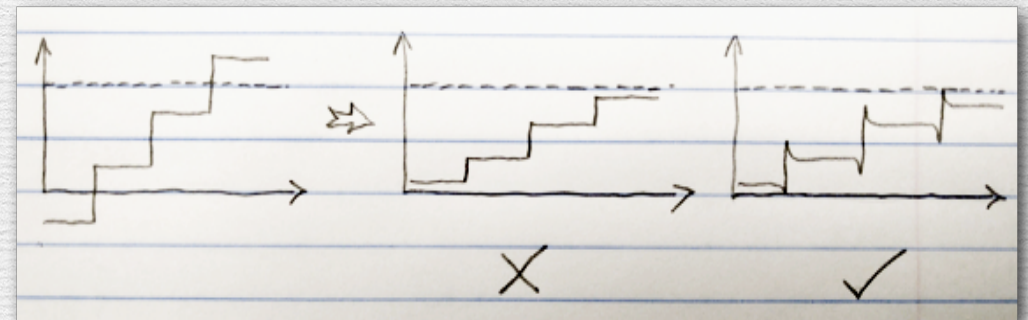


## ◆ align and merge

- all images look similar, so alignment is more robust
- $\text{SNR} \propto \sqrt{N}$  where  $N$  = number of frames in burst
- reduces noise in shadows

## ◆ tonemap

- boost shadows
- squeeze 14-bit merged image into 8-bit for display
- preserve local contrast at the expense of global contrast

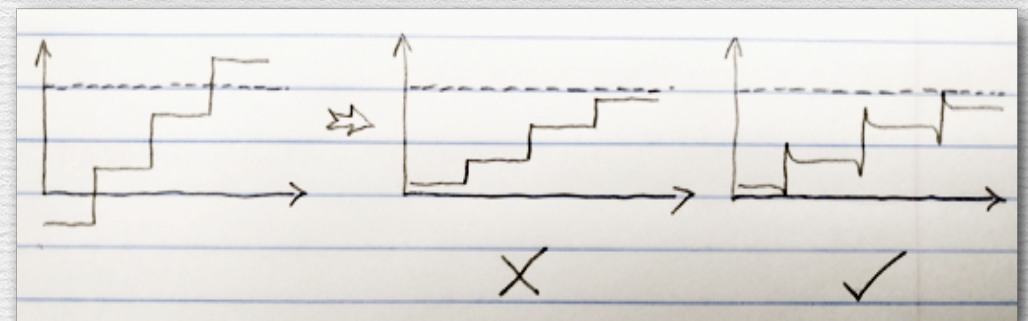




La Grande Jatte, Georges Seurat, 1884

# HDR in the Google camera app

[to be published in Proc. SIGGRAPH Asia 2016]



## ◆ tonemap

- boost shadows
- squeeze 14-bit merged image into 8-bit for display
- preserve local contrast at the expense of global contrast



single frame



HDR+



single frame



HDR+





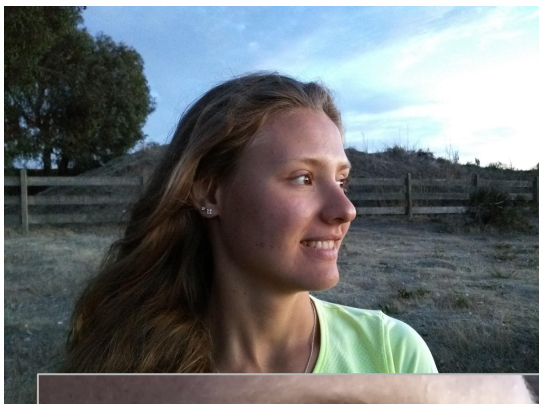
single frame



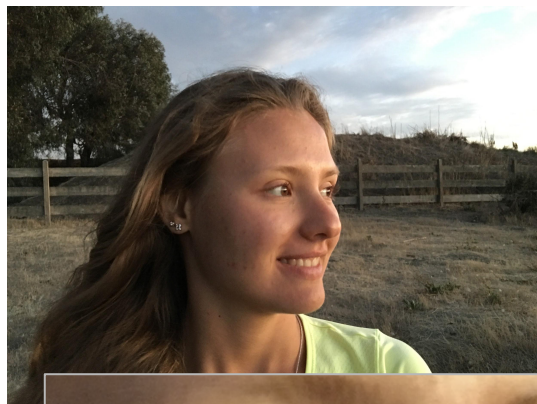
HDR+

23 mins after sunset

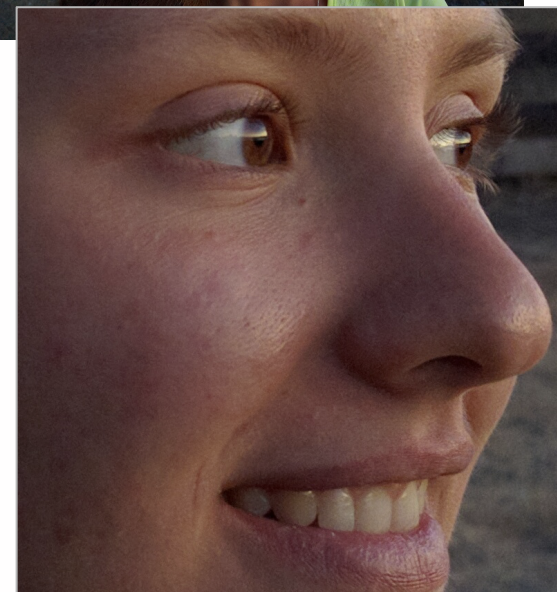
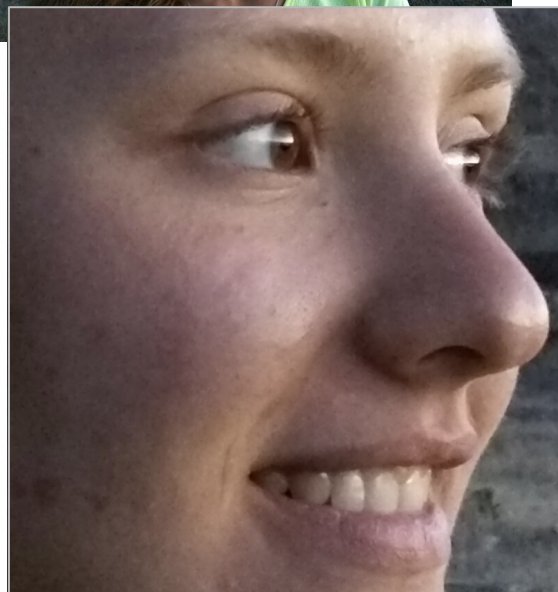
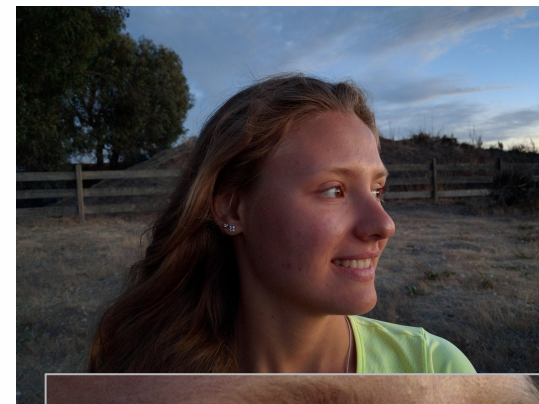
Nexus 6



iPhone 6S+

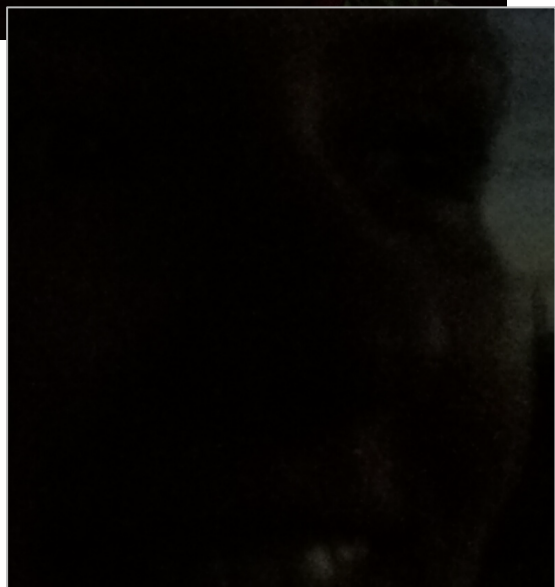
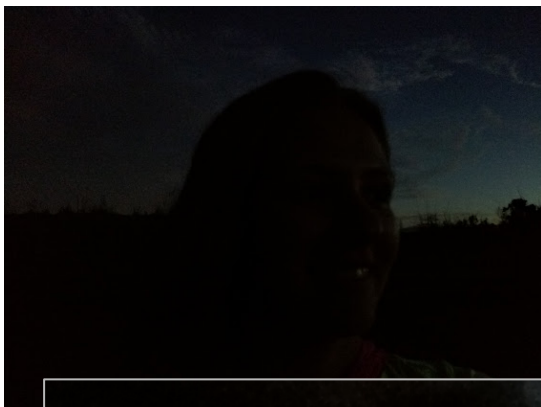


Nexus 6P

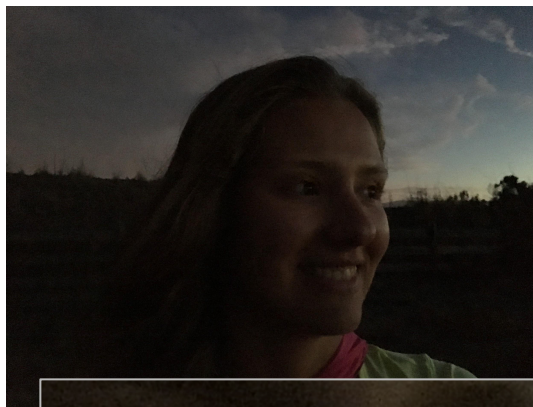


37 mins after sunset

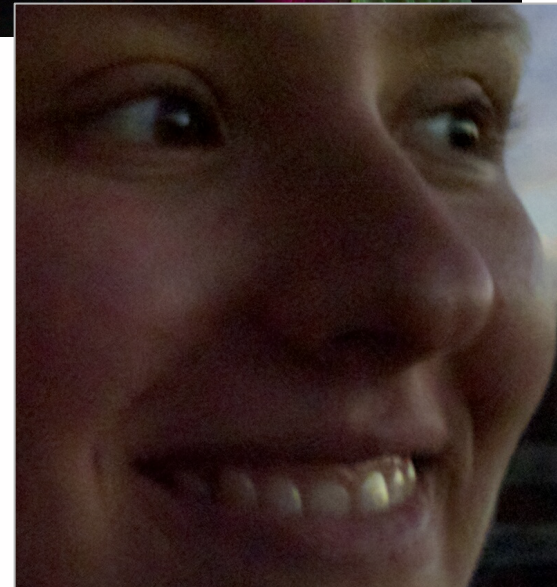
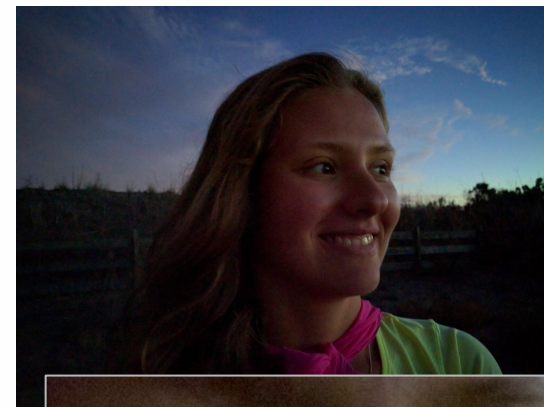
Nexus 6



iPhone 6S+



Nexus 6P





single frame



HDR+

WHAT IF THE SCENE  
WERE DARKER?



(apologies to xkcd)

# Illuminance on a surface

---

- ◆ power accumulating on a surface per unit area, considering light arriving from all directions

$$E = \frac{P}{A} \quad \left( \frac{\text{lumens}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$



(Reinhard)



# Illuminance on a surface

---

- ◆ power accumulating on a surface per unit area, considering light arriving from all directions

$$E = \frac{P}{A} \quad \left( \frac{\text{lumens}}{\text{m}^2} \right)$$

- ◆ related units
  - 1 lux = 1 lumen / m<sup>2</sup>
  - British unit is footcandle
    - 1 candela held 1 foot from surface
    - 1 footcandle = 10.764 lux

# Lux levels

---

300 lux = office lighting at Google

150 lux = desk lighting at home

50 lux = average restaurant

20 lux = romantic restaurant

10 lux = finding socks that match

# Lux levels

---

300 lux = office lighting at Google

150 lux = desk lighting at home

50 lux = average restaurant

20 lux = romantic restaurant

10 lux = finding socks that match

3 lux = outdoor street lighting

1 lux = limit of reading

1/2 lux = full moon

1/5 lux = can't find my keys

1/10 lux = wouldn't take a step without a flashlight



1/4 lux, iPhone 6S+



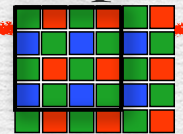
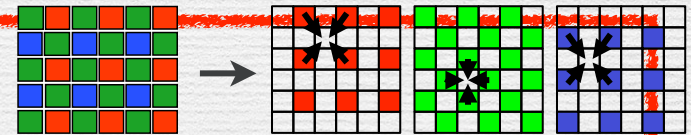
HDR+



SeeInTheDark, ~50 frames, handheld, real-time

# Operation of SeeInTheDark

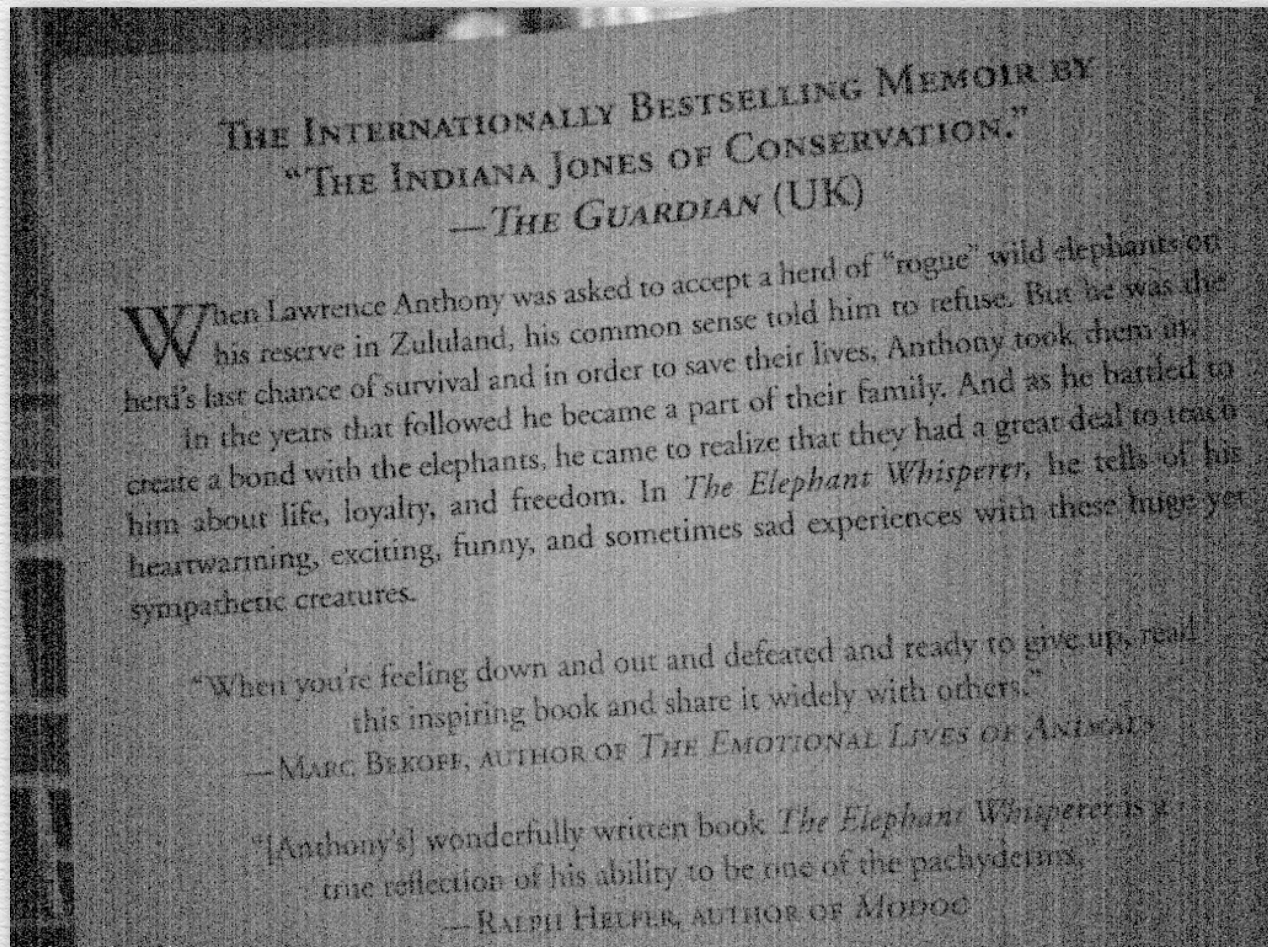
- ◆ capture 10-bit Bayer RAW frame
  - Nexus 6P capable of 12Mpix at 30fps, but I use only 8fps
- ◆ minimal pre-processing
  - correct for fixed pattern noise and hot pixels
  - downsize 4× in X and Y (instead of demosaicing) to 1Mpix
- ◆ track feature(s) from previous frame
  - 2D convolutions, then fit homography, affine, similarity, or simple translation, with help from accelerometer and gyro
- ◆ combine in GPU using 4 × 16-bit FBOs (for R,G,B,G)
  - warp new frame to accumulator and blend in using IIR filter
  - apply black level correction, lens shading, white balancing, color correction, tone mapping, gamma curve, sharpening



# Fixed pattern noise

---

- ◆ differences in readout among columns
- ◆ rises with ISO but independent of exposure time

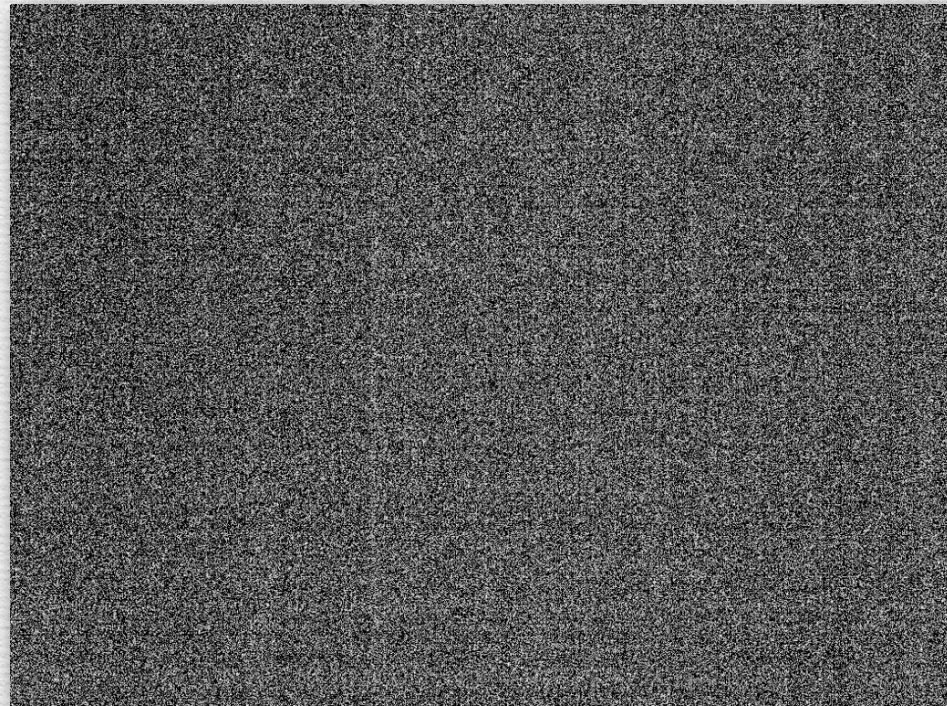




# Fixed pattern noise

---

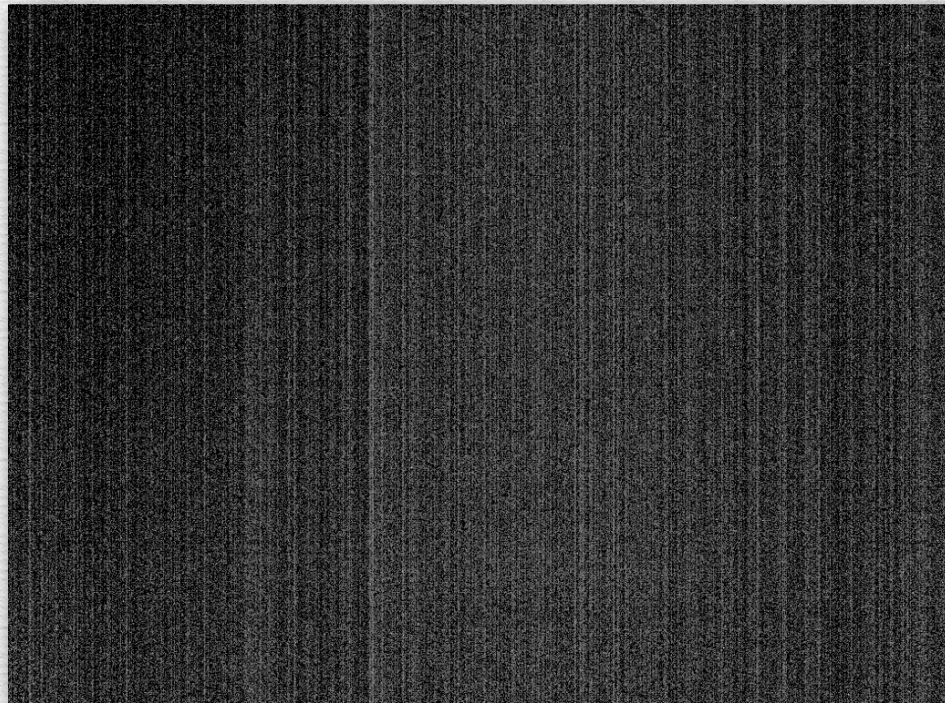
- ◆ differences in readout among columns
- ◆ rises with ISO but independent of exposure time
- ◆ measure using short exposure, but one shot is too noisy



# Fixed pattern noise

---

- ◆ differences in readout among columns
- ◆ rises with ISO but independent of exposure time
- ◆ measure using short exposure, but one shot is too noisy
- ◆ accumulate many short exposures to build a corrector



THE INTERNATIONALLY BESTSELLING MEMOIR BY  
"THE INDIANA JONES OF CONSERVATION."  
—THE GUARDIAN (UK)

When Lawrence Anthony was asked to accept a herd of "rogue" wild elephants on his reserve in Zululand, his common sense told him to refuse. But he was the herd's last chance of survival and in order to save their lives, Anthony took them in. In the years that followed he became a part of their family. And as he battled to create a bond with the elephants, he came to realize that they had a great deal to teach him about life, loyalty, and freedom. In *The Elephant Whisperer*, he tells of his heartwarming, exciting, funny, and sometimes sad experiences with these huge yet sympathetic creatures.

"When you're feeling down and out and defeated and ready to give up, read this inspiring book and share it widely with others."

—MARC BEKOFF, AUTHOR OF *THE EMOTIONAL LIVES OF ANIMALS*

"[Anthony's] wonderfully written book *The Elephant Whisperer* is a true reflection of his ability to be one of the pachyderms.

—RALPH HELPER, AUTHOR OF *MODOC*

THE INTERNATIONALLY BESTSELLING MEMOIR BY  
"THE INDIANA JONES OF CONSERVATION."  
—THE GUARDIAN (UK)

When Lawrence Anthony was asked to accept a herd of "rogue" wild elephants on his reserve in Zululand, his common sense told him to refuse. But he was the herd's last chance of survival and in order to save their lives, Anthony took them in.

In the years that followed he became a part of their family. And as he battled to create a bond with the elephants, he came to realize that they had a great deal to teach him about life, loyalty, and freedom. In *The Elephant Whisperer*, he tells of his heartwarming, exciting, funny, and sometimes sad experiences with these huge yet sympathetic creatures.

"When you're feeling down and out and defeated and ready to give up, read this inspiring book and share it widely with others."

—MARC BEKOFF, AUTHOR OF *THE EMOTIONAL LIVES OF ANIMALS*

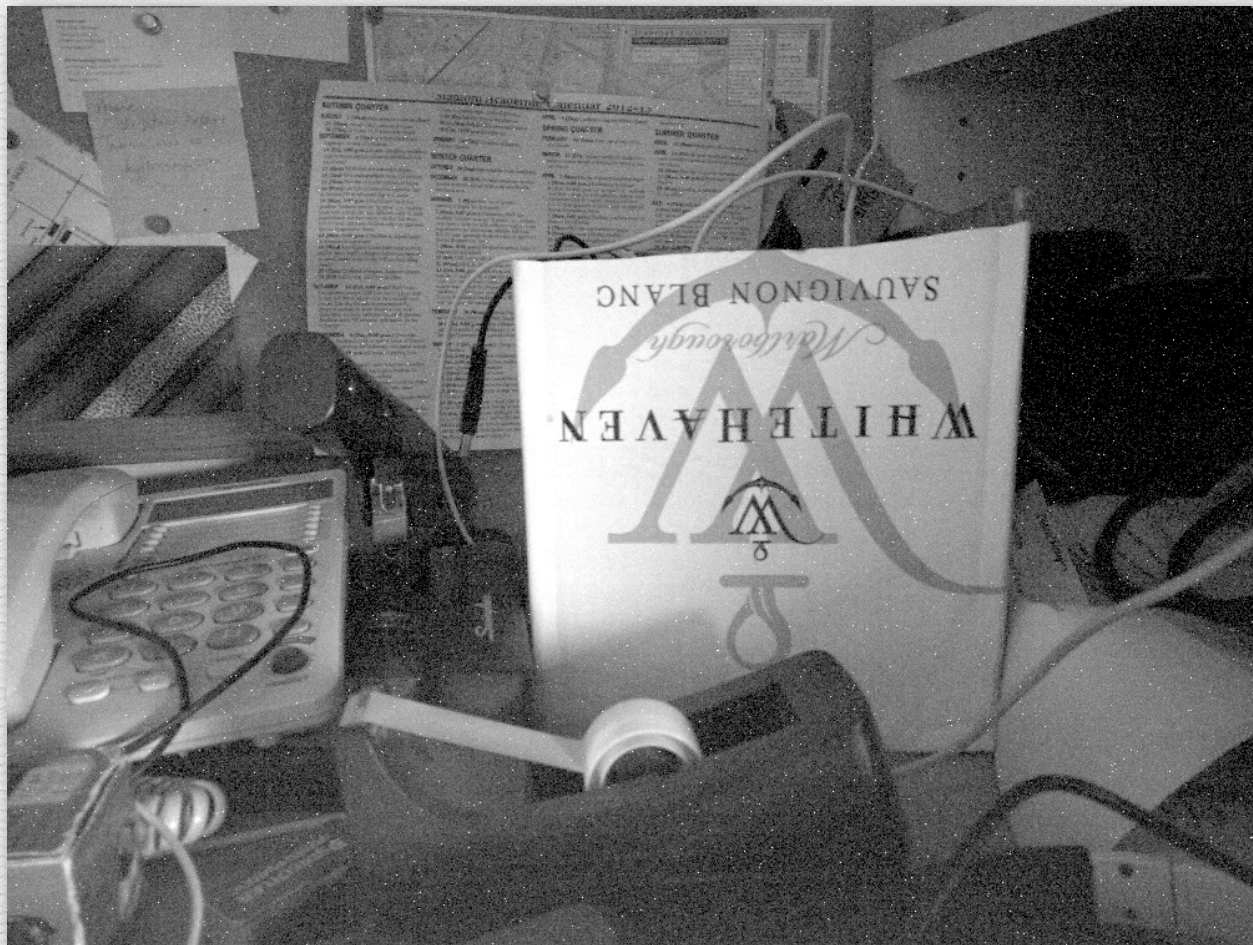
"[Anthony's] wonderfully written book *The Elephant Whisperer* is a true reflection of his ability to be one of the pachyderms."

—RALPH HELPER, AUTHOR OF *MODOC*

# Hot pixels

---

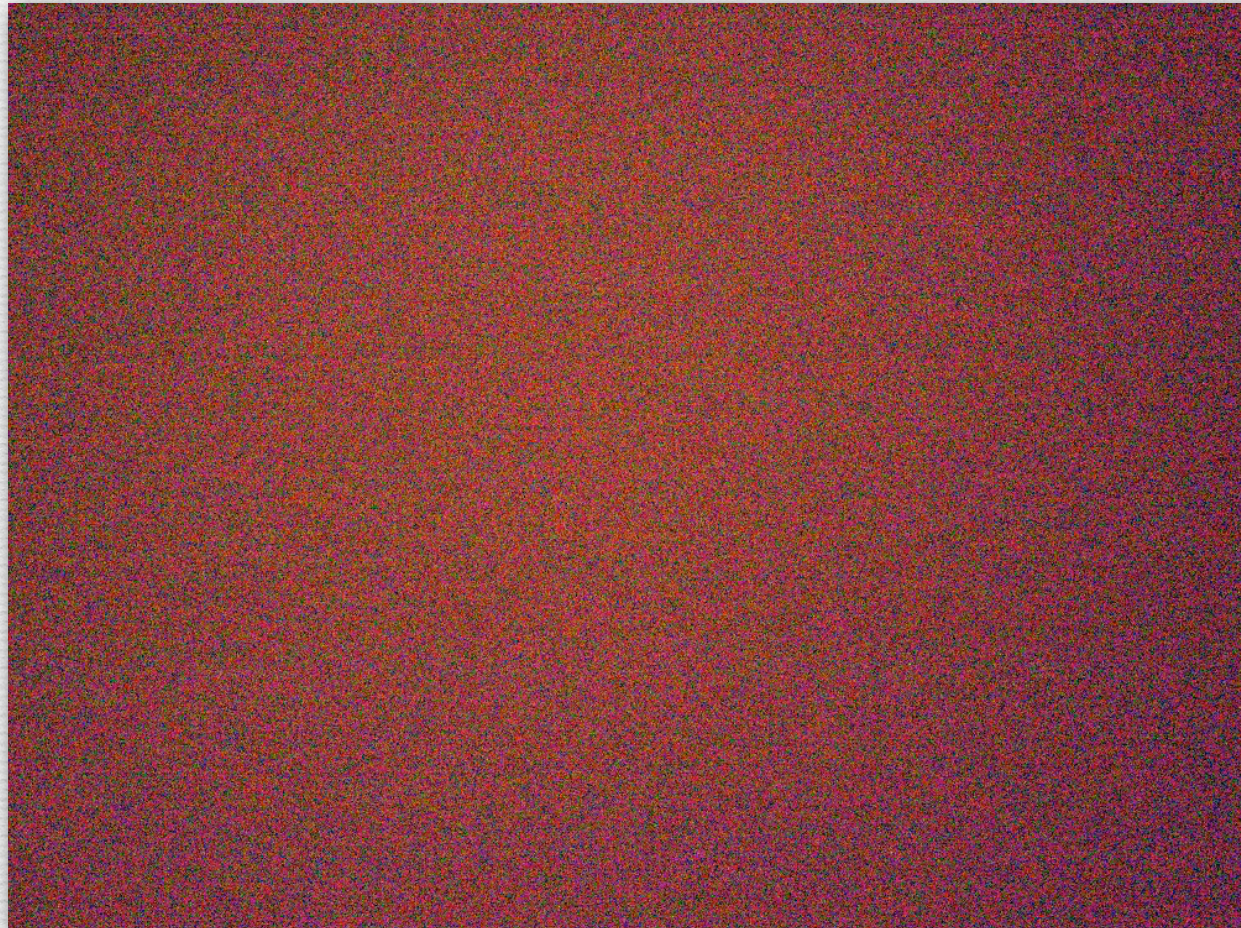
- ◆ isolated pixels with excessive current leakage
- ◆ rises with ISO and exposure time



# Removing hot pixels

---

- ◆ just look for isolated bright pixels, right? No, too noisy!



# Removing hot pixels

---

- ◆ just look for isolated bright pixels, right? No, too noisy!
- ◆ accumulate to reduce noise, then look for them



# Removing hot pixels

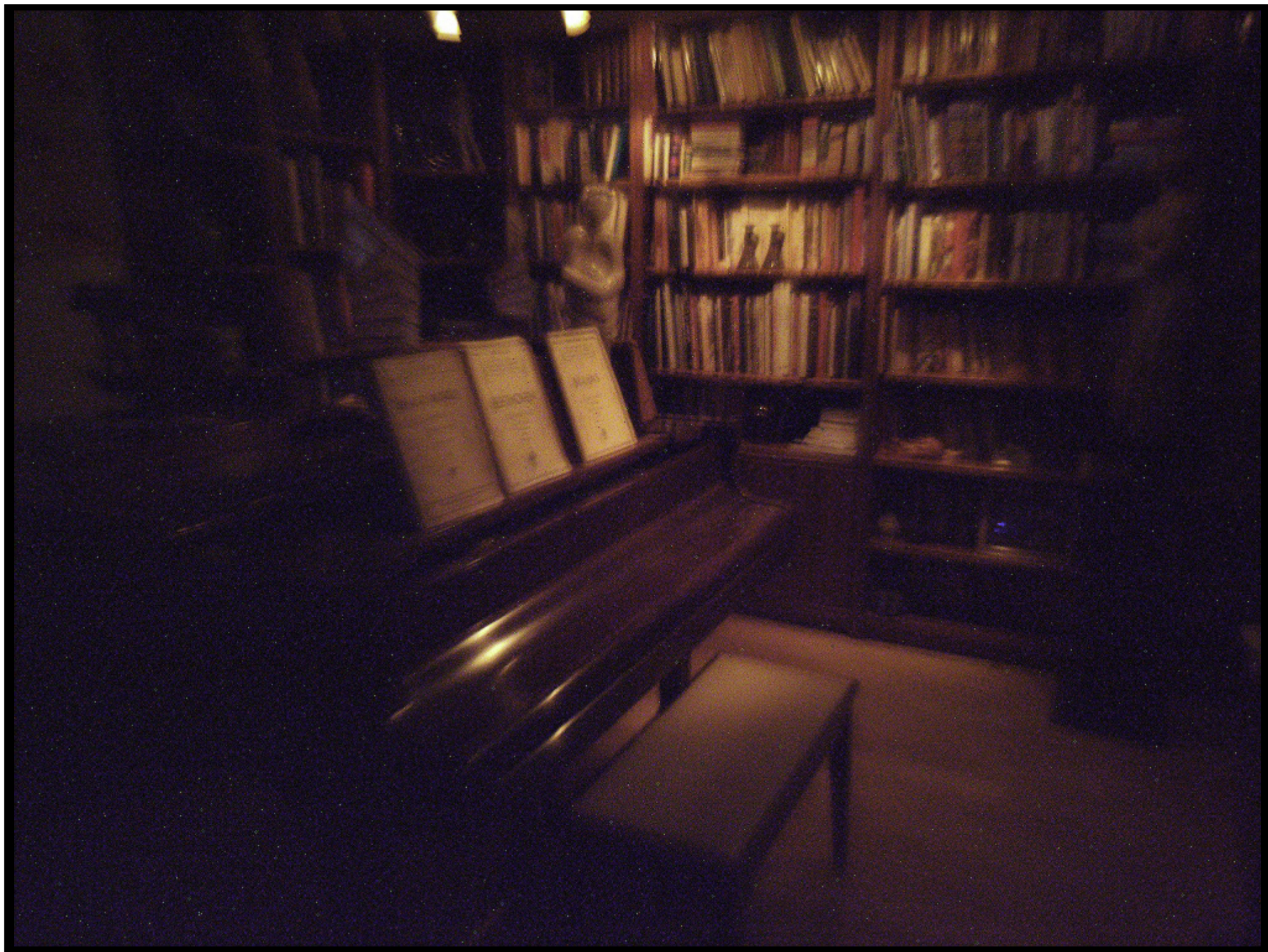
---

- ◆ just look for isolated bright pixels, right? No, too noisy!
- ◆ accumulate to reduce noise, then look for them

Q. Need long exposure, but cell phones have no shutters.  
If you see the scene, you'll be fooled by sharp features.  
What to do?

A. Accumulate during auto-focus sweep!





# Removing hot pixels

---

- ◆ just look for isolated bright pixels, right? No, too noisy!
- ◆ accumulate to reduce noise, then look
  - Q. Need long exposure, but cell phones have no shutters. If you see the scene, you'll be fooled by sharp features. What to do?
    - A. Accumulate during auto-focus sweep!
- ◆ replace hot pixels with average of its neighbors



before hot pixel correction

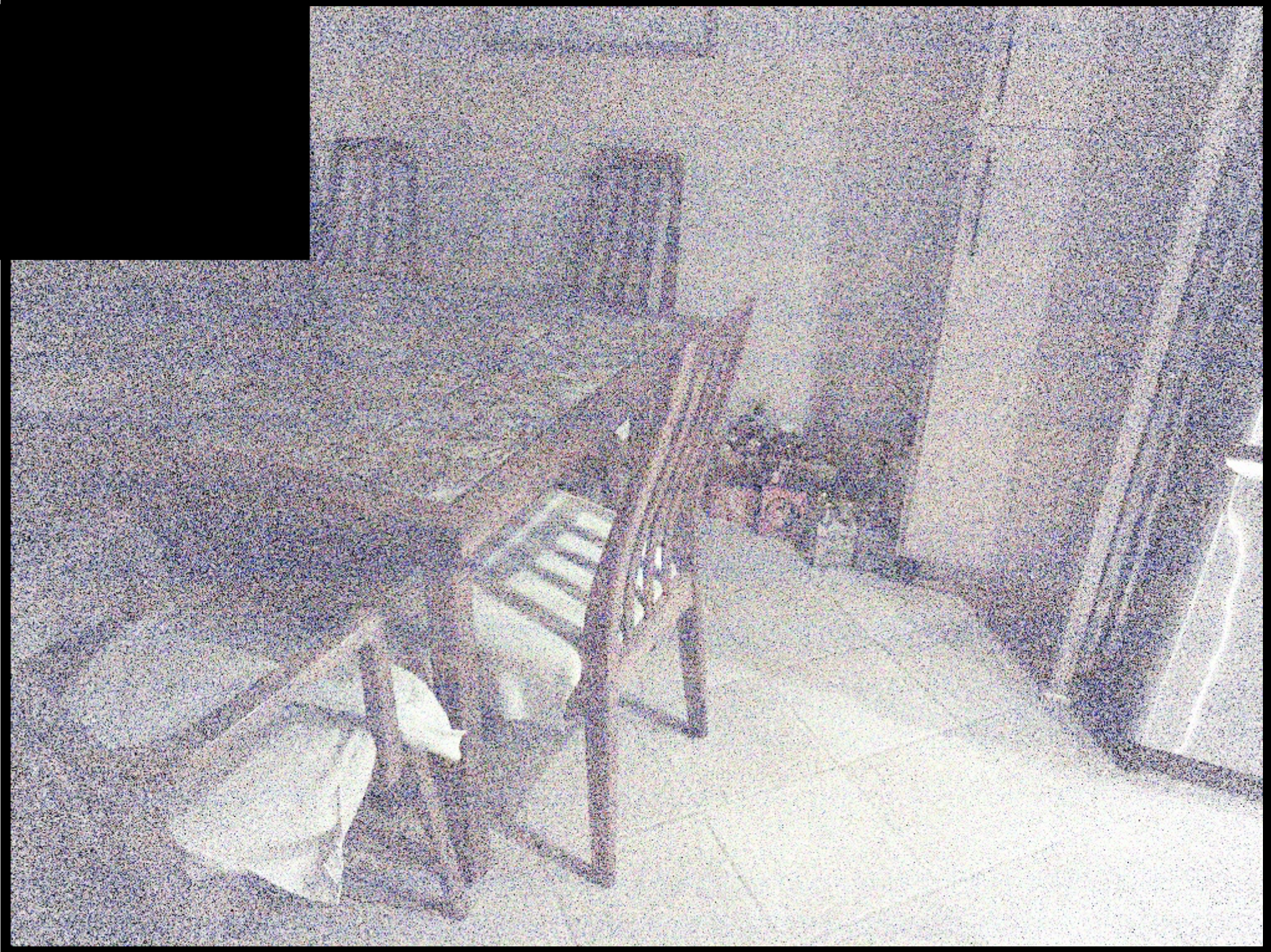


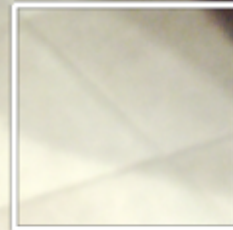
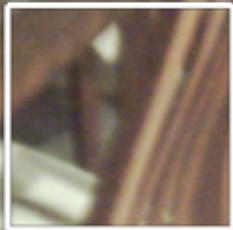
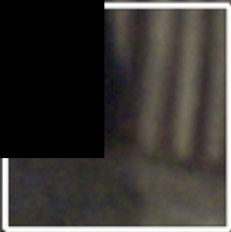
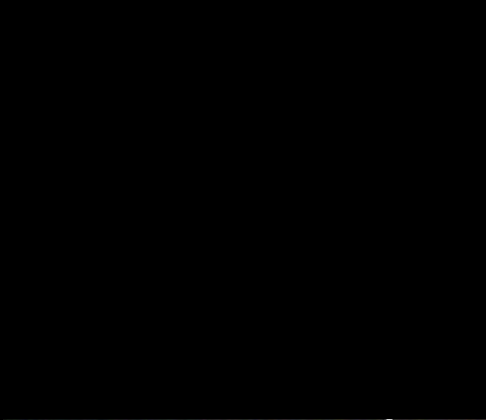
after hot pixel correction

# Operation of SeeInTheDark

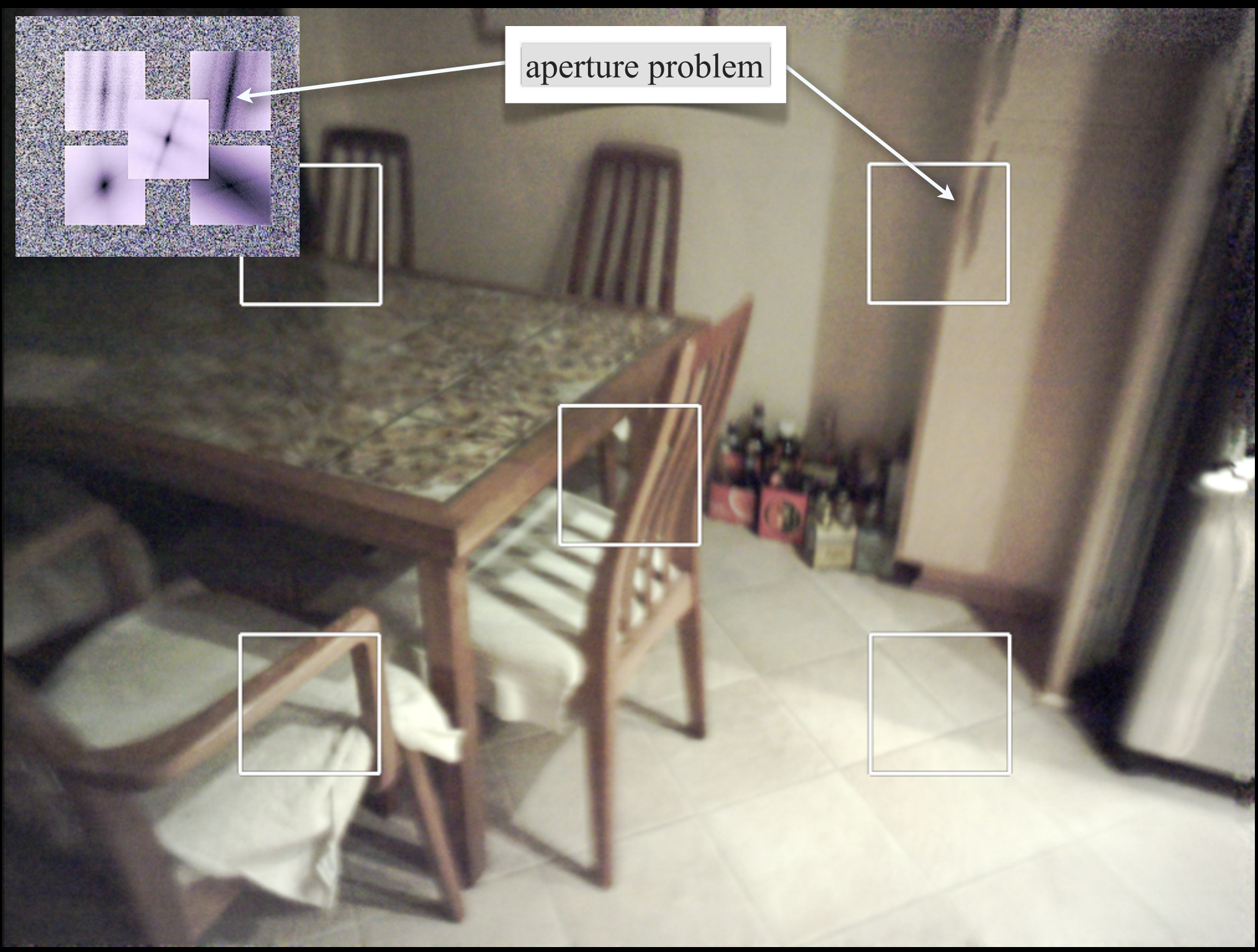
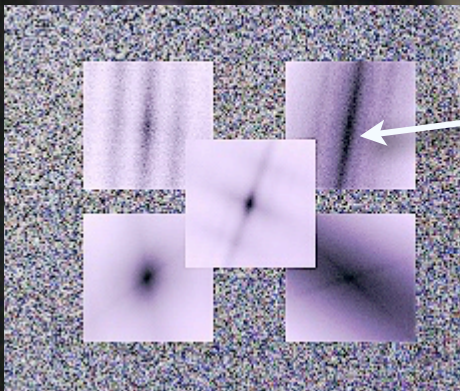
---

- ◆ capture 10-bit Bayer RAW frame
  - Nexus 6P capable of 12Mpix at 30fps, but I use only 8fps
- ◆ minimal pre-processing
  - correct for fixed pattern noise and hot pixels
  - downsize 4× in X and Y (instead of demosaicing) to 1Mpix
- ◆ track feature(s) from previous frame
  - 2D convolutions, then fit homography, affine, similarity, or simple translation, with help from accelerometer and gyro
- ◆ combine in GPU using 4 × 16-bit FBOs (for R,G,B,G)
  - warp new frame to accumulator and blend in using IIR filter
  - apply black level correction, lens shading, white balancing, color correction, tone mapping, gamma curve, sharpening

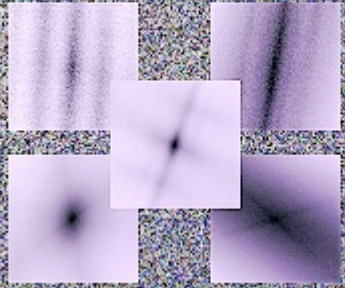


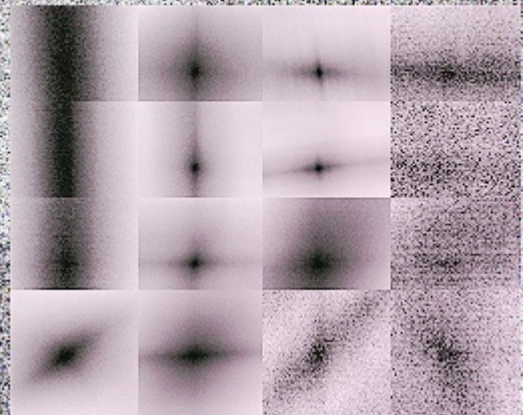


aperture problem





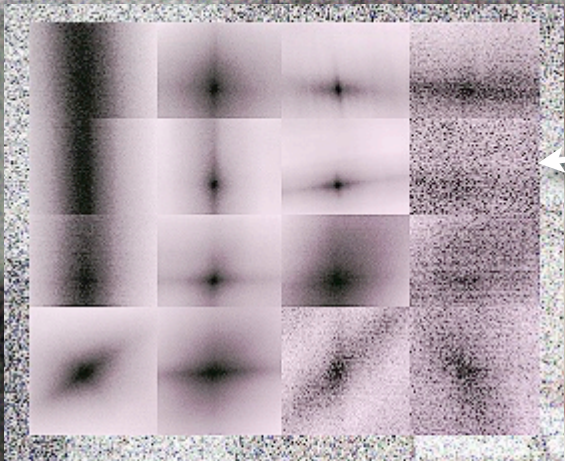




2006 PAIR OF THE YEAR

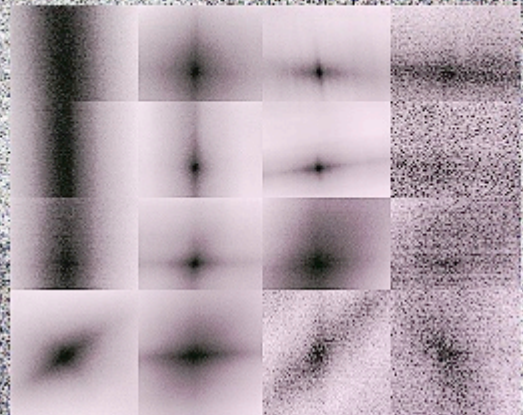
2213

PACIFIC INTERNET WWW.PACIFICINTERNET.COM  
DEATH RISK 1 JULY 15 2006



vignetting causes  
loss of signal





2006 PAIR OF THE YEAR

2213

PACIFIC INTERNET WWW.PACIFICINTERNET.COM  
DEATH MARK 1 JULY 15 2006

## Watershed Down Stream Preserve

### California Buckeye in Winter

Friday • January 17

Windy Hill • 4.5 mi

9:30am to 2:30pm



Enjoy the buckeye trees of Black Mountain with Docent Mike Alexander and Kandis on a moderately-paced hike along (and adjacent to) the Bella Vista and Old Kamin Trails. You'll learn about this remarkable species' history, uses, and special adaptations to California's climate.

It won't be a buckeye exhibit or stork delivery like no other, and you'll observe an impressive array of inspiring and awe-inspiring birds and settings. You'll also learn about the history of our area and how it has changed over time.

So many beautiful birds and plants are on display at Black Mountain. The Winding Creek Trail loop and surrounding area are on tiger preferences and may not be available to visit. Call for more information. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 5.

### Sary Breecos and Windy Hill

Monday • January 19

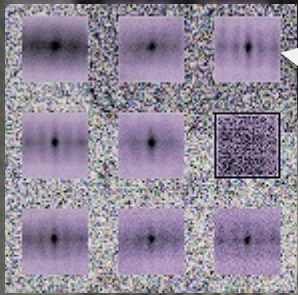
Windy Hill • 5 mi

10:00am to 3:00pm



Join Docent Ed Plath and Sary Breecos for a tour of the Preserve. You'll learn how it got its name, the history of the Gulch and many other facts. The weather conditions will be perfect for a walk in the park. The tour will be held on the 19th of January. The tour will be held on the 19th of January.

So many beautiful birds and plants are on display at Black Mountain. The Winding Creek Trail loop and surrounding area are on tiger preferences and may not be available to visit. Call for more information. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 5.



text is a repeating texture

Madera Creek Open S

not to go at a faster cycling pace. You'll  
Mountain, ride the Waterwheel

up, and perhaps (depending  
on rider preferences and trail availability)  
continue to White Oak Trail to climb out.  
Reservations are required and will be  
accepted on or after January 3.

### California Buckeye in Winter

Sunday • January 17  
Monte Bello • 4.5 mi  
9:30am to 2:30pm



Explore the buckeye trees of Black Mountain  
with docents Mike Alexander and Kandis  
Scott on a moderately-paced hike along  
(and adjacent to) the Bella Vista and  
Old Ranch Trails. You'll learn about this  
remarkable species' history, uses, and  
unique adaptations to California's climate.

In winter, the buckeye exhibits a stark  
beauty like no other, and you'll observe  
this in a variety of inspiring, and  
photogenic forms and settings. You'll  
help record detailed observations of  
select trees as a way to track their  
seasonal progression. This is the first

### Bay Breezes and Windy Hills

Tuesday • January 19  
Windy Hill • 8 mi  
10:00am to 3:00pm



Join Docents Ed North and Huey-Shin  
Yuan for a tour of this Preserve and learn  
how it got its name. You'll climb Hamms  
Gulch and traverse the Lost Trail, and if the  
weather cooperates, you may be able to  
get a spectacular glimpse of the Bay. You'll  
return on the Spring Ridge Trail on this  
strenuous hike that includes approximately  
1,200 feet of climbing.



## Watershed Down Stream Preserve

### California Buckeye in Winter

Friday • January 17

Windy Hill • 4.5 mi

9:30am to 2:30pm



Enjoy the buckeye trees of Black Mountain with Docent Mike Alexander and Kandis on a moderately-paced hike along (and adjacent to) the Bella Vista and Old Kamin's Trails. You'll learn about this remarkable species' history, uses, and special adaptations to California's climate.

It won't be a buckeye exhibit or stork delivery like no other, and you'll observe an impressive array of inspiring and awe-inspiring birds and settings. You'll also learn about the life cycle of a buckeye tree and why it's more than just a tree.

So many beautiful birds and plants will be on display, including the California condor, black-throated blue chickadee, and the California gnatcatcher. The hike will also feature a variety of other plants and animals, including the California condor. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 5.

### Sage Scrub and Windy Hill

Monday • January 19

Windy Hill • 5 mi

10:00am to 3:00pm



Join Docent Ed Plath and Candace Yarn for a tour of the Preserve's Sage Scrub and Windy Hill. You'll see how a year's worth of weather conditions affect the plants and animals. You'll also see how the weather conditions affect the plants and animals. You'll also see how the weather conditions affect the plants and animals.

So many beautiful birds and plants will be on display, including the California condor, black-throated blue chickadee, and the California gnatcatcher. The hike will also feature a variety of other plants and animals, including the California condor.

# How much can the gyro help?

---

- ◆ MEMS gyros are accurate, but they drift
  - ~1 pixel / frame (for 1Mpix image@8fps)
- ◆ yaw is worst, because it can't be corrected using the gravity vector from the accelerometer
- ◆ the compass is too inaccurate to correct anything





after 1 second



after 15 seconds

# Operation of SeeInTheDark

---

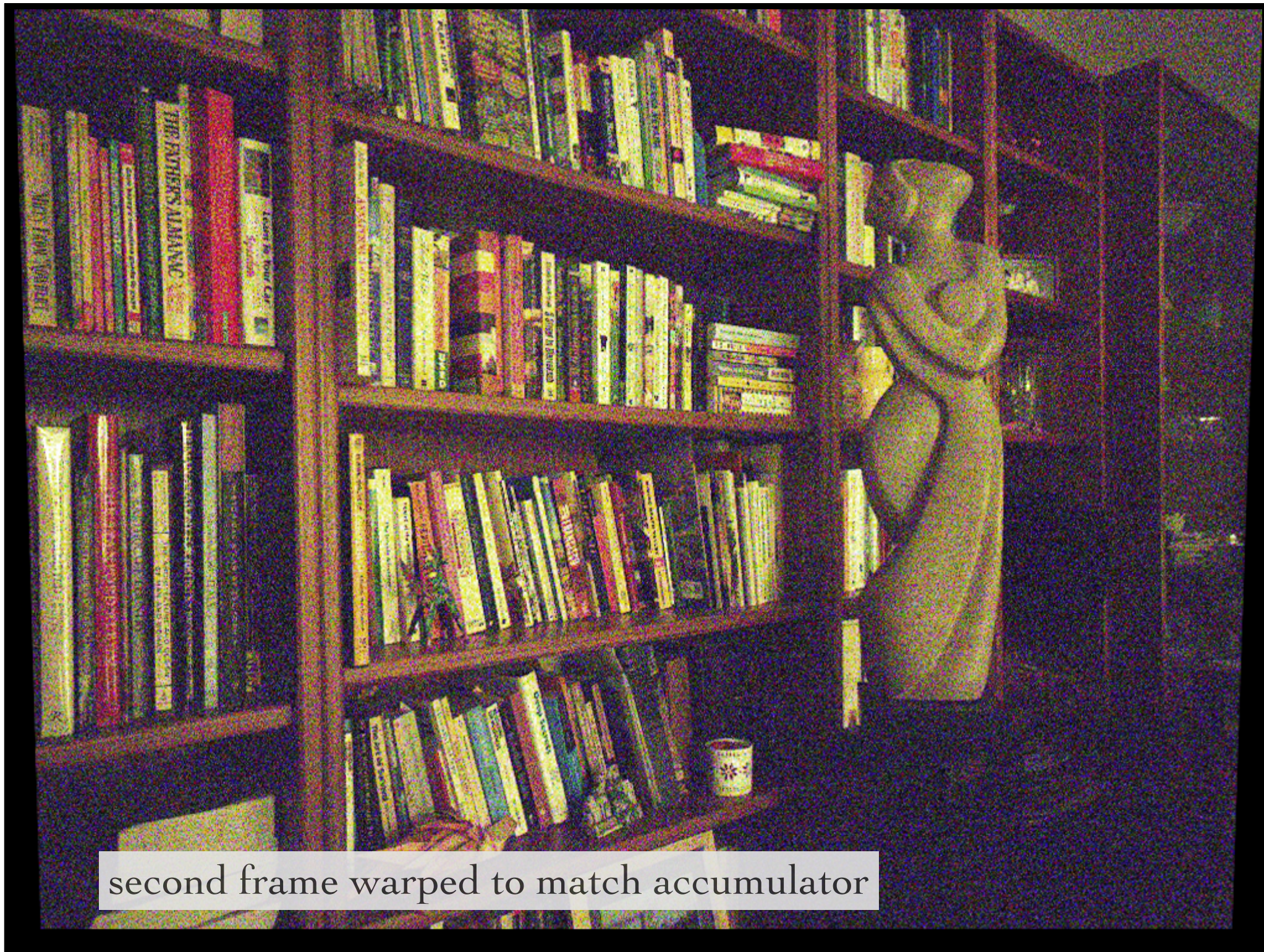
- ◆ capture 10-bit Bayer RAW frame
  - Nexus 6P capable of 12Mpix at 30fps, but I use only 8fps
- ◆ minimal pre-processing
  - correct for fixed pattern noise and hot pixels
  - downsize 4× in X and Y (instead of demosaicing) to 1Mpix
- ◆ track feature(s) from previous frame
  - 2D convolutions, then fit homography, affine, similarity, or simple translation, with help from accelerometer and gyro
- ◆ combine in GPU using 4 × 16-bit FBOs (for R,G,B,G)
  - warp new frame to accumulator and blend in using IIR filter
  - apply black level correction, lens shading, white balancing, color correction, tone mapping, gamma curve, sharpening

A photograph of a wooden bookshelf filled with books. The books are arranged on several shelves, and a small decorative object is visible on one of the lower shelves. A white text box is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

accumulator after first frame



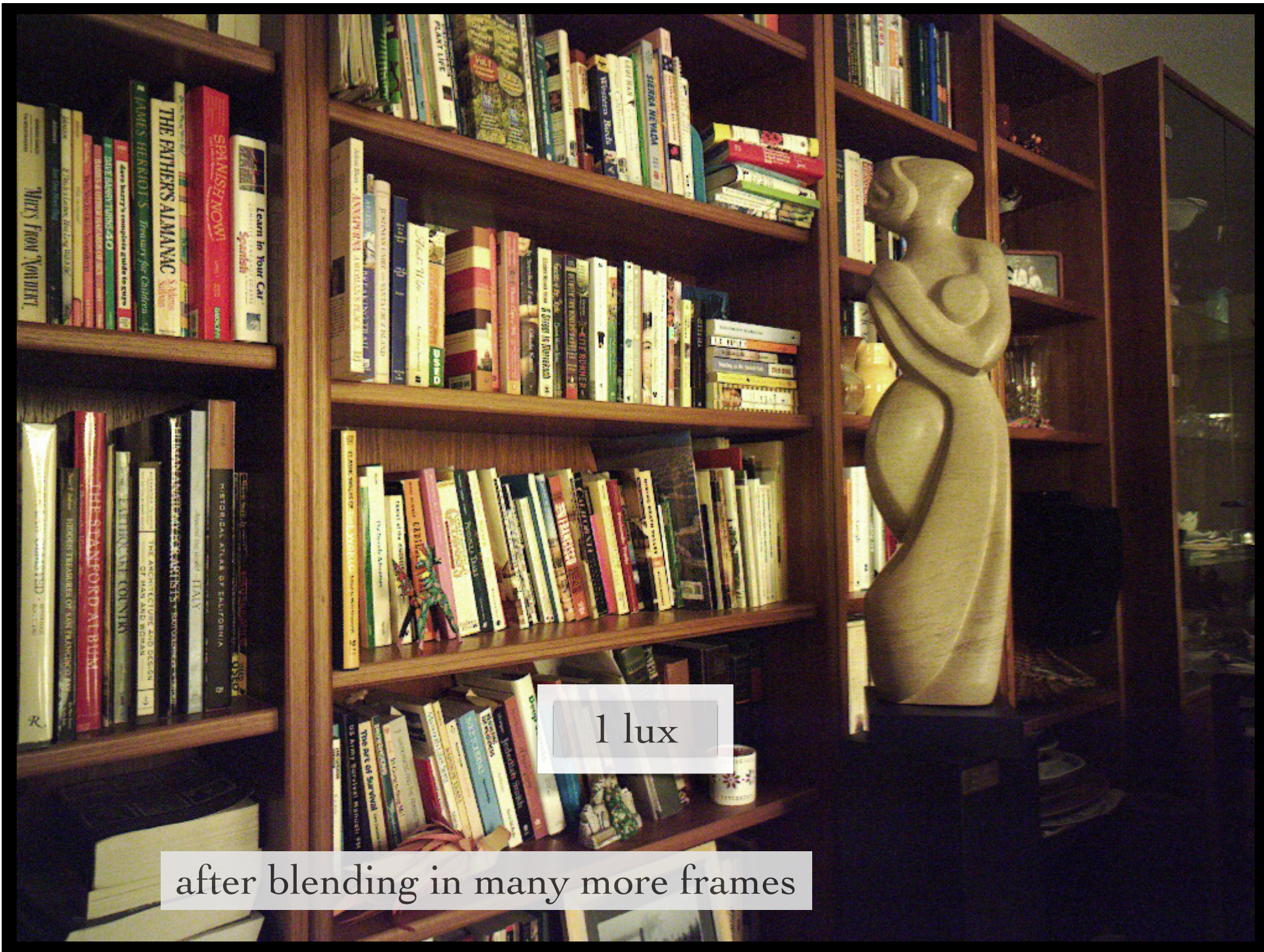
second frame



second frame warped to match accumulator



accumulator after blending in second frame



1 lux

after blending in many more frames



# Two ways to average images

---

O(N) memory



## ◆ FIR filter

$$y[n] = b_0 x[n] + b_1 x[n-1] + \dots + b_N x[n-N]$$

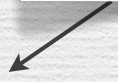
### • Example:

$$\text{accum}[n] = \frac{1}{3} \text{frame}[n] + \frac{1}{3} \text{frame}[n-1] + \frac{1}{3} \text{frame}[n-2]$$

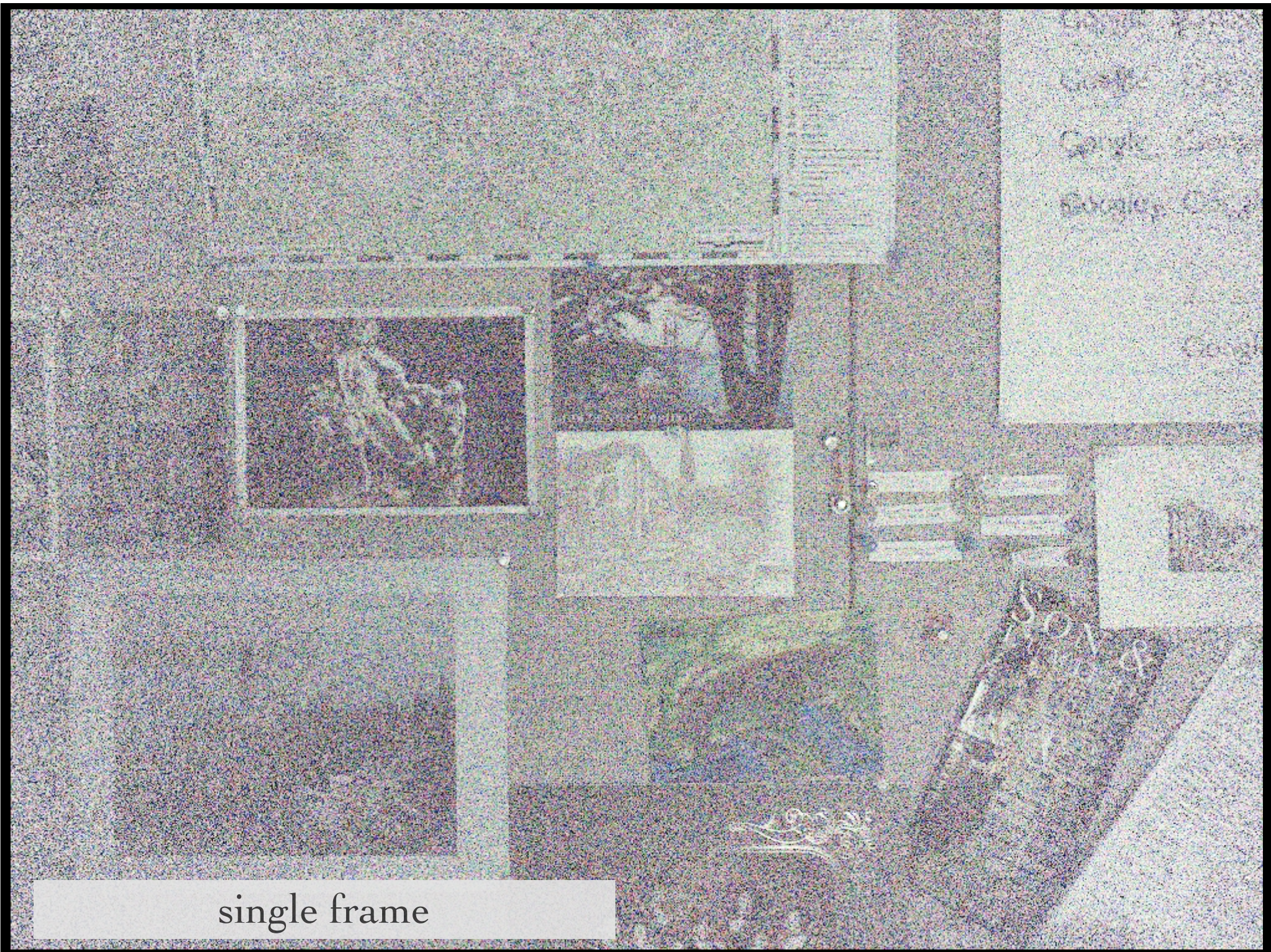
## ◆ IIR filter

$$y[n] = k_1 x[n] + k_2 y[n-1]$$

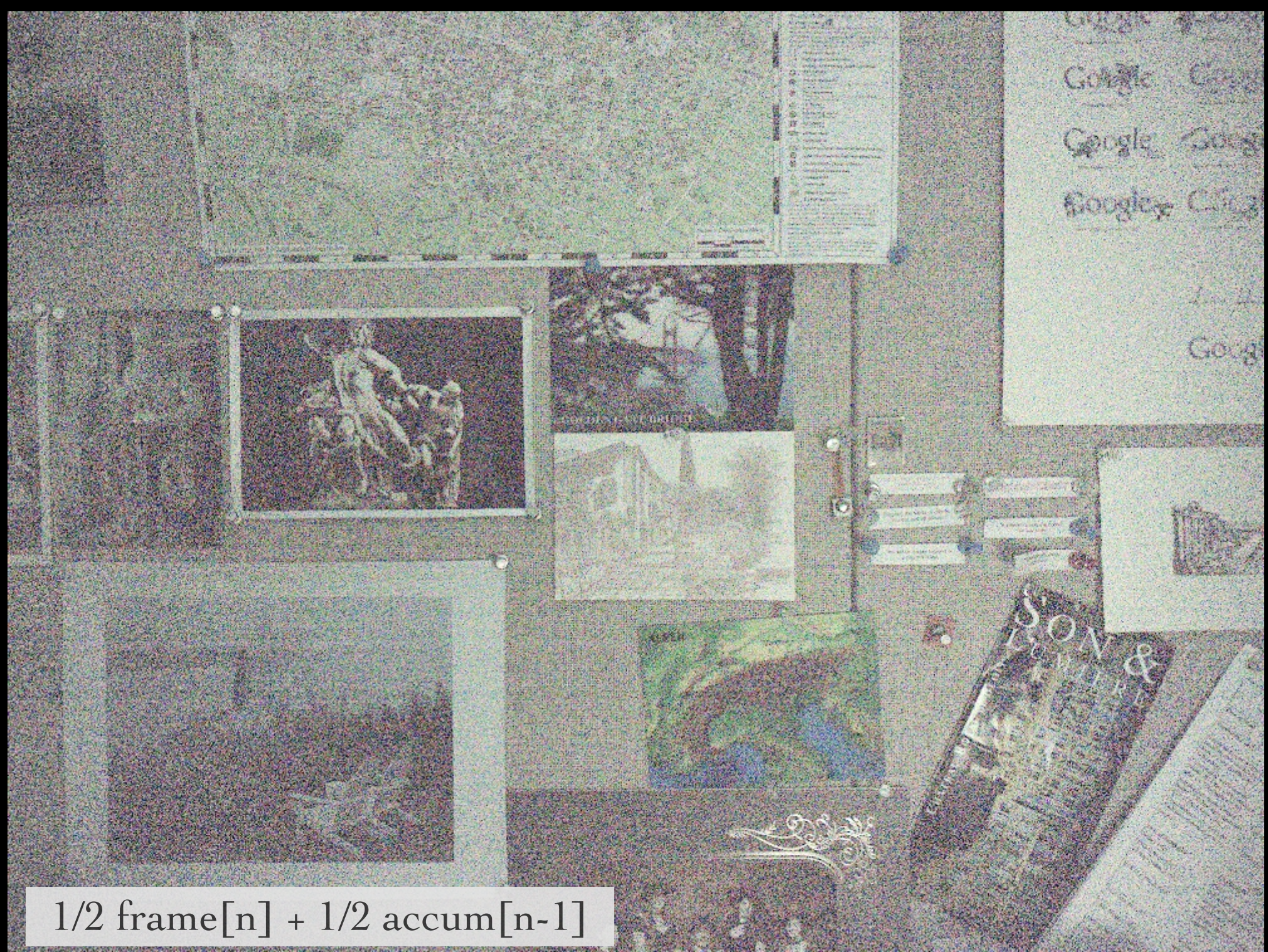
### • Example:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{accum}[n] &= \frac{1}{2} \text{frame}[n] + \frac{1}{2} \text{accum}[n-1] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \text{frame}[n] + \frac{1}{4} \text{frame}[n-1] + \frac{1}{8} \text{frame}[n-2] + \dots \end{aligned}$$


O(1) memory



single frame



$1/2 \text{ frame}[n] + 1/2 \text{ accum}[n-1]$



$1/4 \text{ frame}[n] + 3/4 \text{ accum}[n-1]$



$1/8 \text{ frame}[n] + 7/8 \text{ accum}[n-1]$



1/16 frame[n] + 15/16 accum[n-1]



$1/32 \text{ frame}[n] + 31/32 \text{ accum}[n-1]$



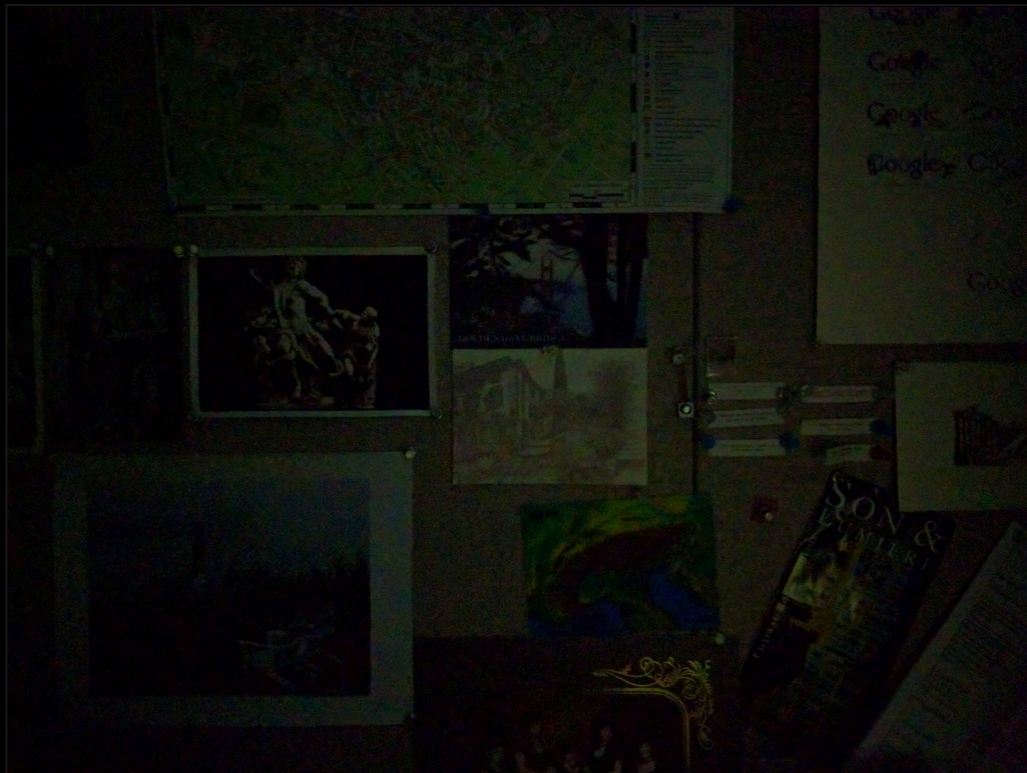
$1/64 \text{ frame}[n] + 63/64 \text{ accum}[n-1]$





1/2 lux

$1/64 \text{ frame}[n] + 63/64 \text{ accum}[n-1]$



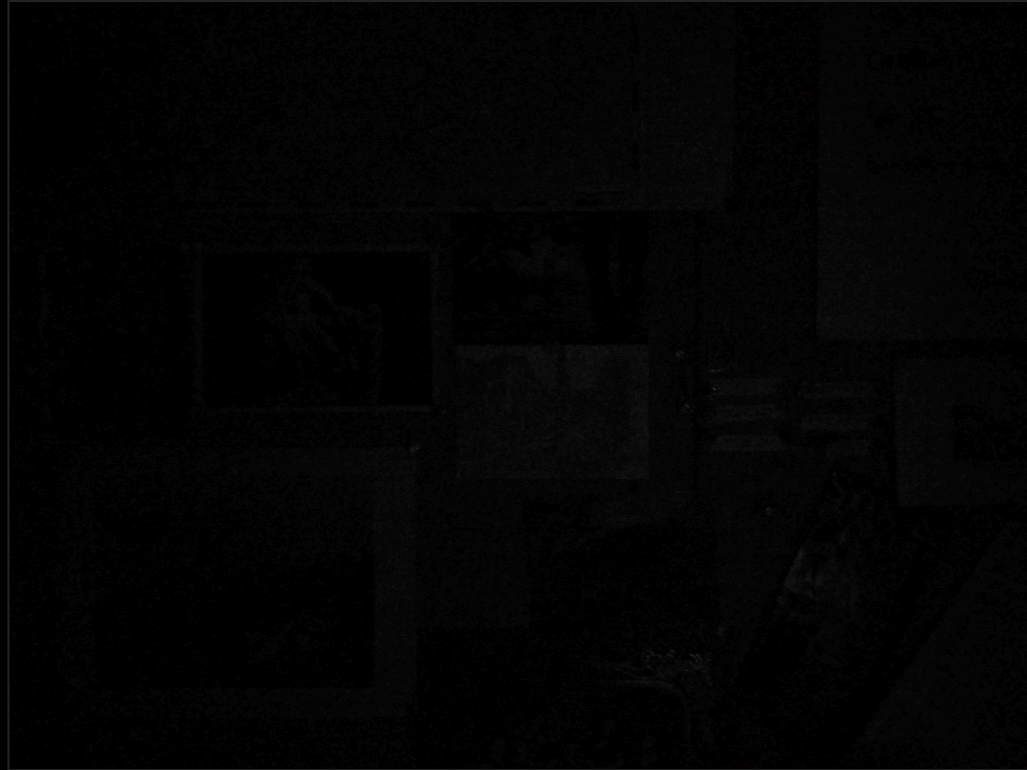
HDR+



HDR+



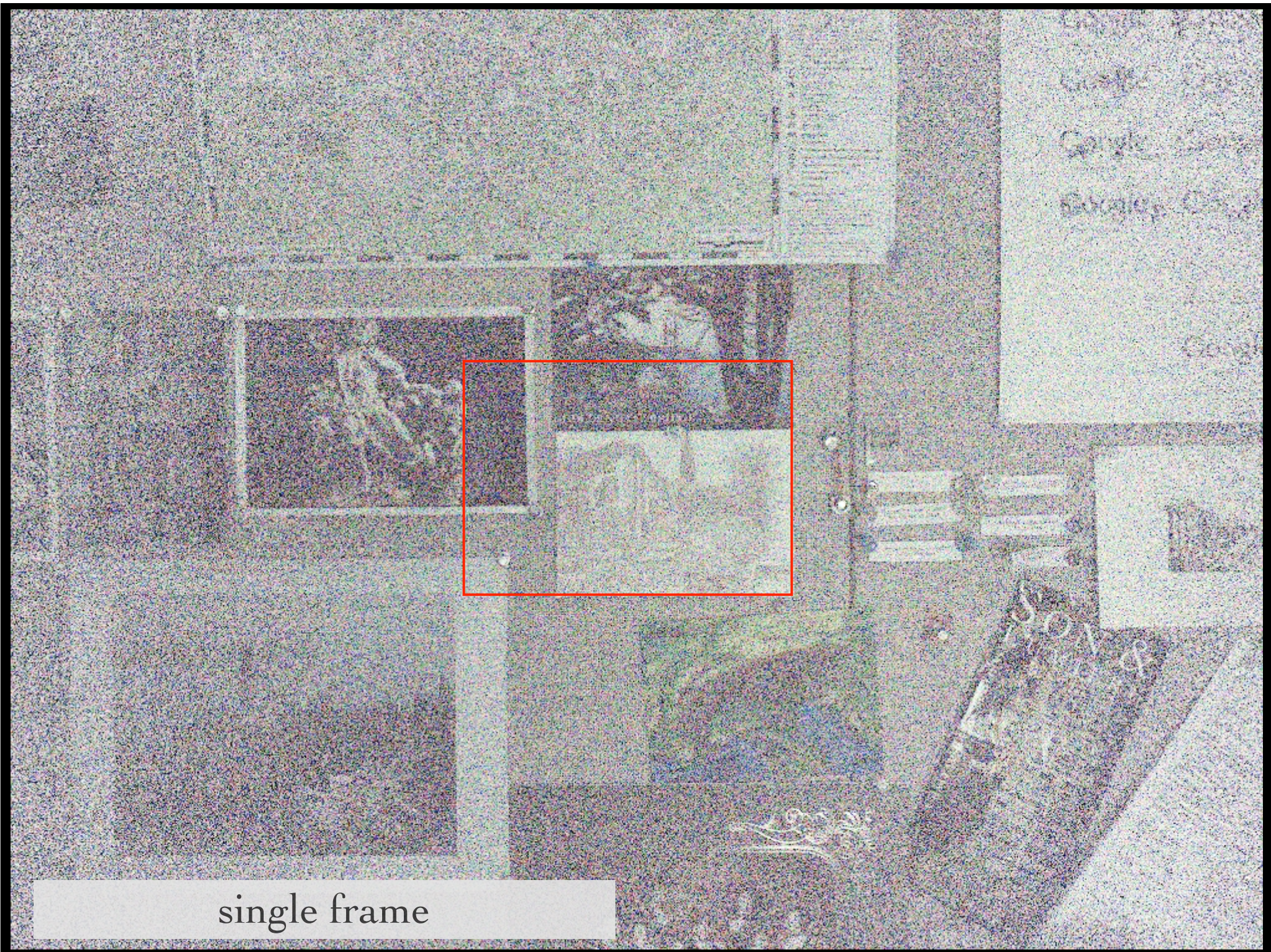
SeeInTheDark



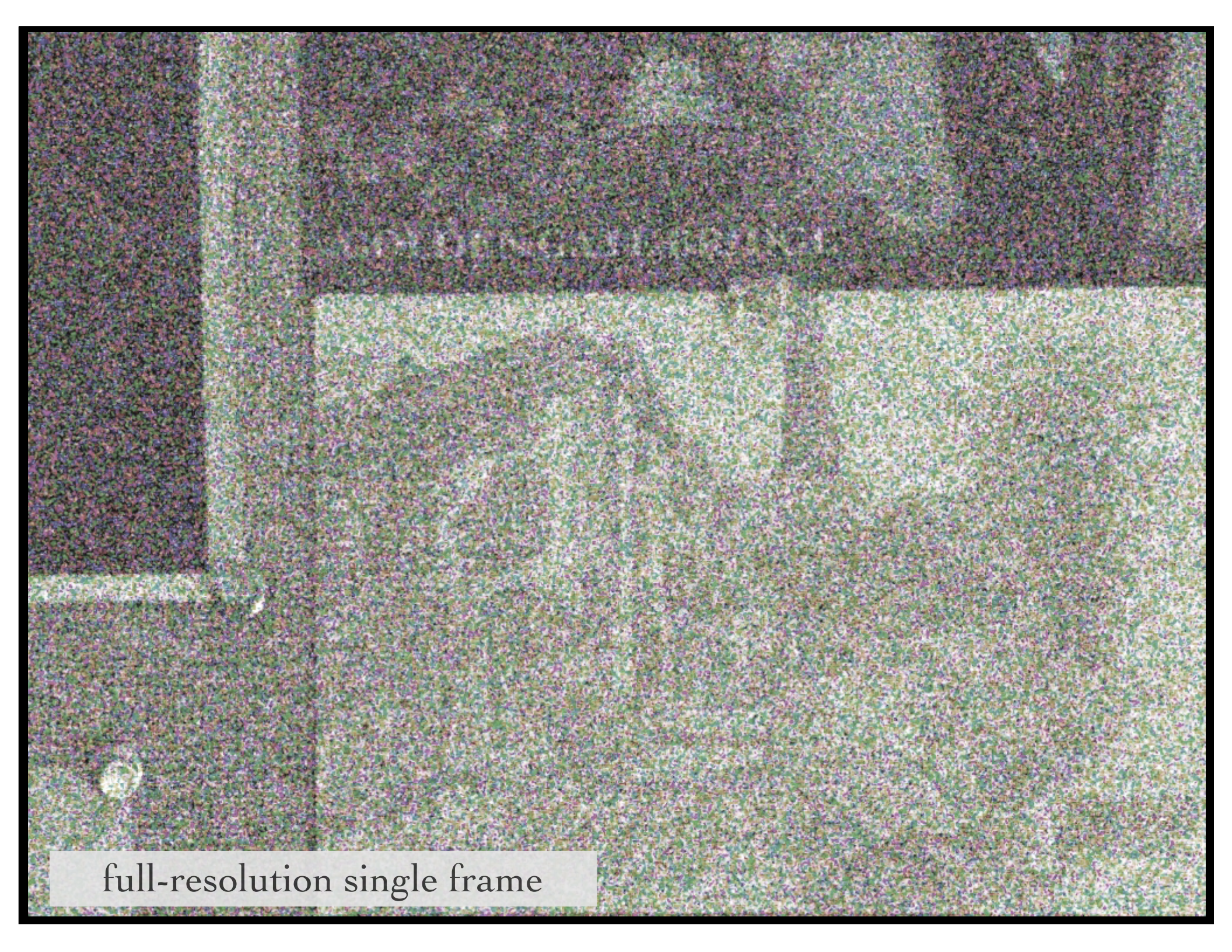
ordinary cell phone picture



ordinary cell phone picture



single frame

The image displays a single frame of a video at full resolution. The scene is predominantly dark and filled with significant digital noise, appearing as a dense pattern of small, multi-colored pixels (purple, green, blue, and white). In the bottom-left corner, there is a small, bright, circular object that appears to be a light source or a reflection. The overall texture is grainy and lacks clear structural details due to the high level of noise.

full-resolution single frame



WHAT IF THE SCENE  
WERE DARKER?



A dark, low-key photograph of an interior space. On the left, a white wall features the word "Google" in its signature multi-colored font. Above the wall is a white metal railing. The right side of the image is dominated by a dense shower of multi-colored confetti falling from above. The overall lighting is very dim, with the primary light source highlighting the logo and the falling particles.

Google

AE/AF sequence (30fps)



Google

AE/AF sequence (6fps)

AE/AF sequence (6fps)

AE/AF sequence (6fps)



0.1 lux

accumulating for 5 seconds





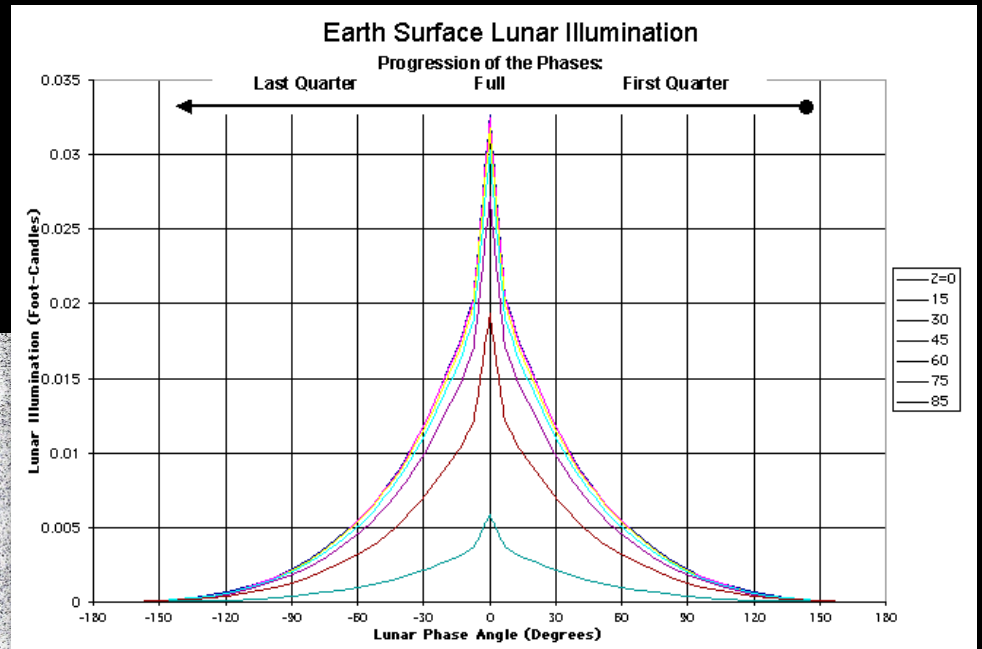
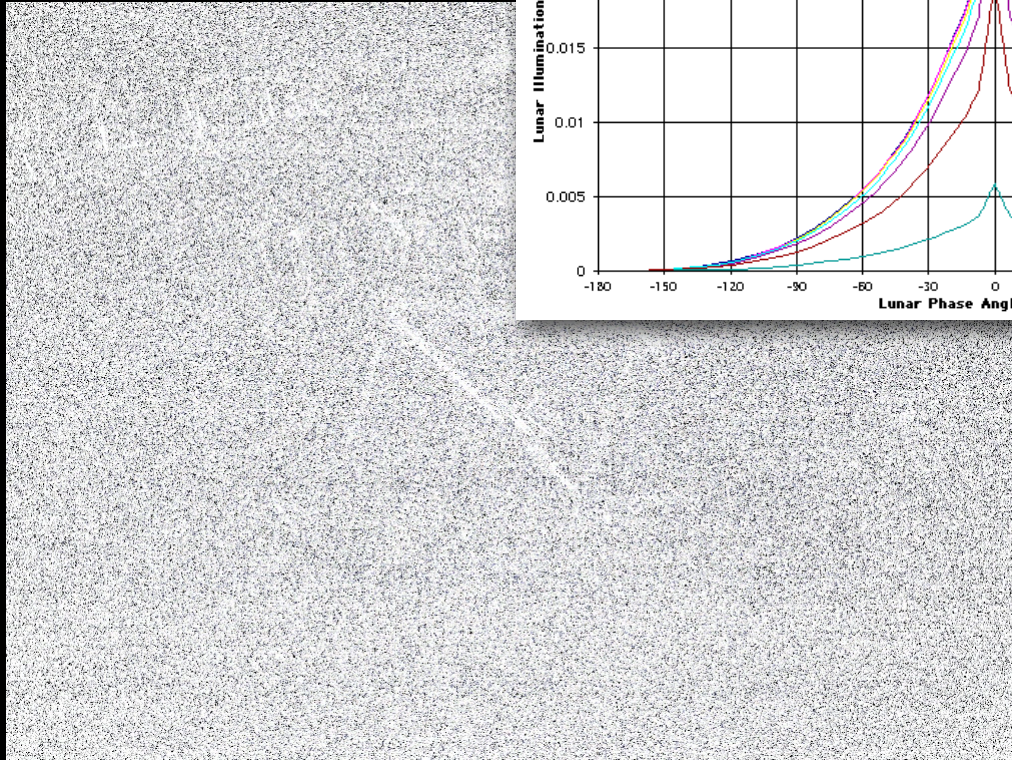




full moon, single frame



full moon, ~30 frames



gibbous moon  $30^\circ$  above horizon



gibbous moon  $20^\circ$  above horizon

WHAT IF THE SCENE  
WERE DARKER?



# Signal-to-noise ratio

---

$$SNR = \frac{\text{mean pixel value}}{\text{standard deviation of pixel value}} = \frac{\mu}{\sigma}$$
$$= \frac{P Q_e t}{\sqrt{P Q_e t + D t + N_r^2}}$$

◆ where

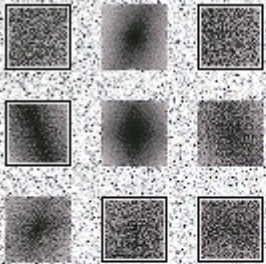
$P$  = incident photon flux (photons/pixel/sec)

$Q_e$  = quantum efficiency

$t$  = exposure time (sec)

$D$  = dark current (electrons/pixel/sec), including hot pixels

$N_r$  = read noise (rms electrons/pixel), including fixed pattern noise



1 shot at ISO 5400 (gain=10 DN/e)

- signal = 100,  $\sigma = 32$ ,  $\sigma^2 = 1,000$
- read noise  $\sigma = 27$ ,  $\sigma^2 = 730$
- total  $\sigma = 42$
- **SNR = 2.5 : 1**

10 shots

- signal = 1000,  $\sigma = 100$ ,  $\sigma^2 = 10,000$
- read noise  $\sigma = 85$ ,  $\sigma^2 = 7,300$
- total  $\sigma = 132$
- **SNR = 7.5 : 1**

same, but 10x darker scene

- signal = 10,  $\sigma = 10$ ,  $\sigma^2 = 100$
- read noise  $\sigma = 27$ ,  $\sigma^2 = 730$
- total  $\sigma = 29$
- **SNR = 1:3**

10 shots

- signal = 100,  $\sigma = 10$ ,  $\sigma^2 = 1,000$
- read noise  $\sigma = 85$ ,  $\sigma^2 = 7,300$
- total  $\sigma = 91$
- **SNR = 1:1**

# Where does the game stop?

---

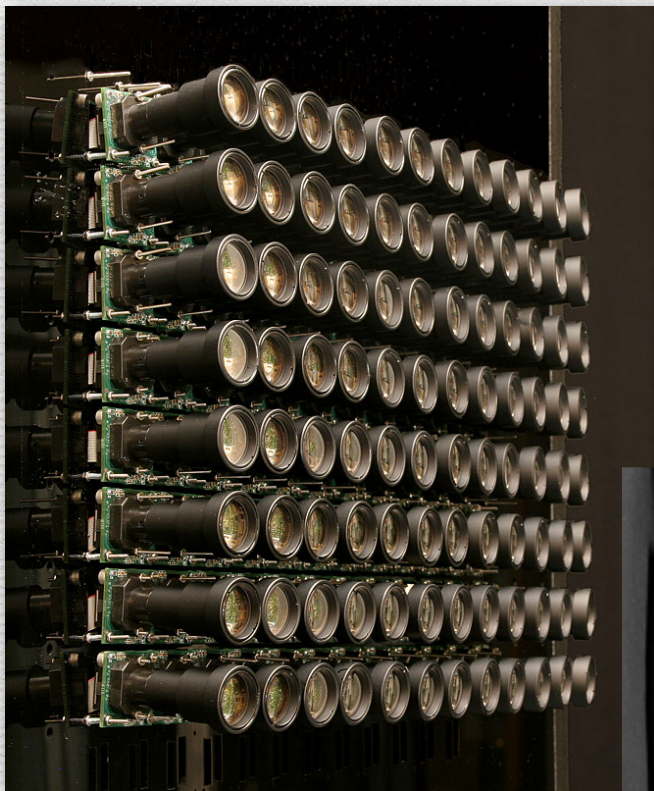
- ◆ longer accumulation required to overcome read noise
- ◆ noise causes jitter in alignment, leading to blur in image
- ◆ not obvious how to auto-focus in very noisy images
- ◆ variation in noise sources over time
- ◆ scene doesn't hold still that long
- ◆ *you can't hold still that long*
  
- ◆ ways to cheat
  - IR illumination
  - more cameras...



# Arrays of cameras

---

Stanford



Light L16

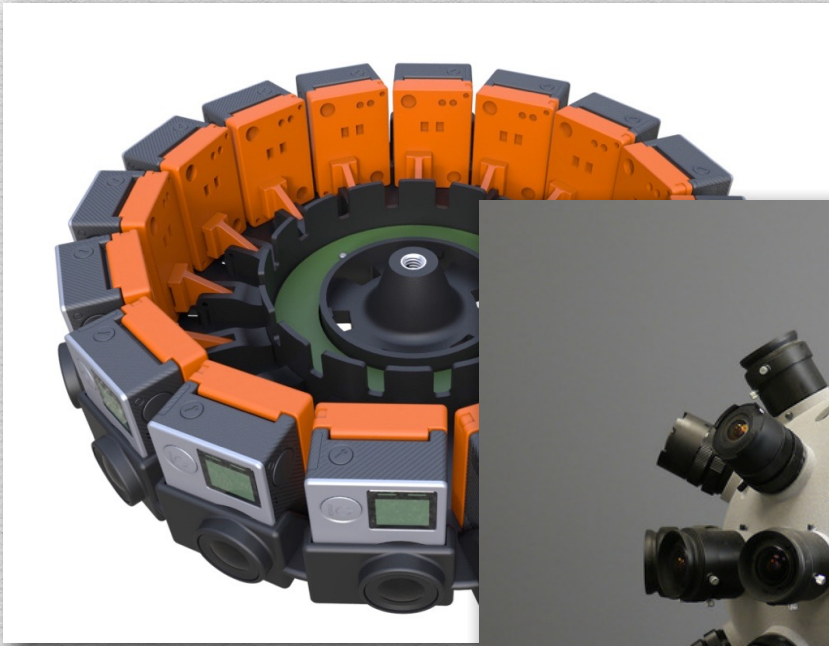


fake

# Light field camera arrays

---

Google Jump



Jaunt

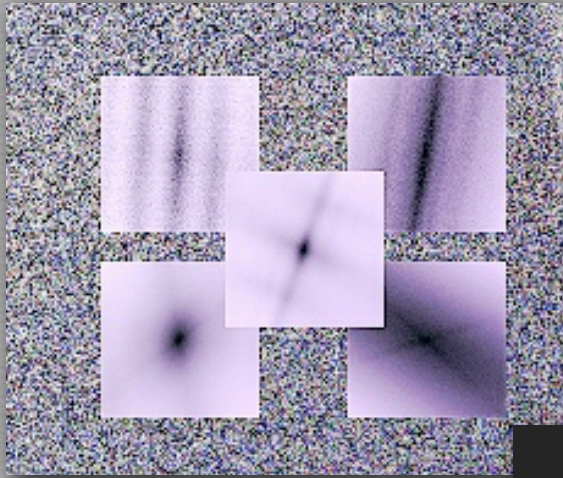


Lytro





(Eddy Talvala, Nexus 6P, 240fps, 2015, available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaG8DuvpOLU>)



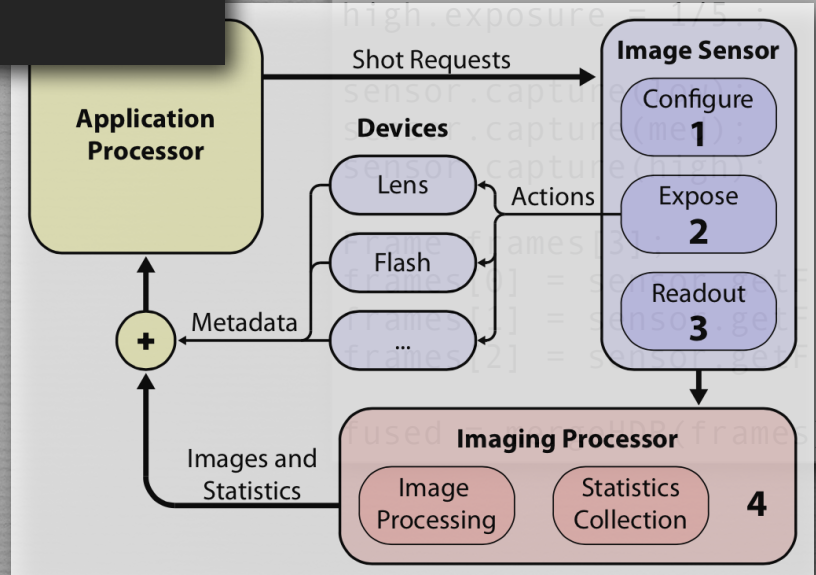
WHAT IF THE SCENE WERE DARKER?



```
Sensor sensor;
Shot low, med, high;
```

```
low.exposure = 1/80.;
med.exposure = 1/20.;
```

```
high.exposure = 1/75.;
```



```
frame();
frame();
frame();
used(sensor.frame());
```